

it is relatively immaterial which branch of higher learning he may make his specialty.

President Benjamin Ide Wheeler, of the University of California, does not at present intend to accept the position. In the strictest sense he has never been formally offered it, but he did agree, in response to the request of the committee, to come here and talk with the members concerning it. Were he willing to accept the place it would be pressed upon him, an arrangement which amounts to about the same thing as a formal tender. Presidents of state universities are becoming increasingly aware of the advantage that they possess in being freed from the necessity of 'begging,' except, of course, from the single source to which they regularly go for funds. Seeking pecuniary aid among friends of an institution is not an agreeable task. This part of the Boston work is believed to be quite as responsible for Dr. Wheeler's present state of mind as anything else, although he in addition realizes his personal unfamiliarity with a considerable range of the institute's educational interests.

Dr. Pritchett, who resigned the presidency a year and a half ago, and has since been carrying on the leadership of the institute while attending to his other duties, thus shouldering a very heavy responsibility, will definitely terminate his work on his departure for his vacation this summer. It is hardly likely that any serious attempt will be made to secure a president between now and that time, but instead a member of the faculty, or perhaps of the executive committee, will be designated as acting president, to carry on the work until the place can be formally filled. Dartmouth College will be next year in the field looking for a president, too. Increasingly difficult it seems to be in the present complexity of university affairs to get the right men for positions of this character.—The Boston *Transcript*.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY

MEISSNER'S 'METEOROLOGISCHE ELEMENTE'

A RECENT book by Otto Meissner, published in the 'Sammlung naturwissenschaftlich-

paedagogischer Abhandlungen,' deals with the most essential facts of meteorology in a clear and simple way. The full title of the volume is "Die Meteorologische Elemente und ihre Beobachtung, mit Ausblicken auf Witterungskunde und Klimalehre. Unterlagen für Schulgemässe Behandlung sowie zum Selbstunterricht." The publisher is Teubner (Berlin, 1906, 8vo, pp. 94, figs. 33). The object of this new book, as stated in the title, is to promote meteorological instruction in schools and, by treating the subject in an elementary way, to make it possible for the reader to instruct himself. Special emphasis is laid, in the final chapter, on the relations between the meteorological elements and organic life, and the simple rules for weather forecasting are adapted to the use of individual observers who wish to make local forecasts. The origin of important technical terms is indicated in foot-notes. Meissner's little volume is hardly adapted for use in teaching systematic meteorology—it is too disjointed and too superficial for that—but there are numerous suggestions and illustrations which are not found in other books on the same subject. We regret the wholly inadequate statement as to the deflective force of the earth's rotation (p. 39), which gives the impression that north and south winds only are deflected, although later paragraphs state that Ferrel's Law acts in the case of all winds. We note (p. 42) that the anti-trades are stated 'wenigstens teilweise' to descend at the Horse Latitudes, in accordance with Hildebrandsson's view. Undue emphasis is laid (p. 52) on the effect of dust in promoting condensation, no mention being included of the effect of ionization. And it appears (p. 89) as if the effect of deforestation and reforestation were much greater than the best observations lead us to think. Finally we observe one misprint, and a bad one at that. On page 90 Hann is spelt *Hamm*—and that in a meteorological textbook.

'INTERNATIONALER METEOROLOGISCHER KODEX'

AN official 'Internationaler Meteorologischer Kodex' has been prepared by Drs. Hellmann and Hildebrandsson (large 8vo, Berlin,

Behrend and Co., 1907, pp. 81), in which the resolutions passed at the successive meetings of the International Meteorological Congress and of the International Meteorological Committee are systematically classified by subjects, with references to the meetings at which they were adopted, and to the publications in which the discussions on these resolutions may be found. Hitherto it has been difficult, without a considerable expenditure of time, to ascertain exactly what the official action has been in reference to the numerous subjects which have been considered at these meetings. Dr. Hellmann proposed the preparation of this *Kodex* at the Southport meeting of the International Meteorological Committee in 1903, and the volume has now been published in accordance with the authorization given to Drs. Hellmann and Hildebrandsson by the committee. Resolutions covering matters which have been disposed of (*e. g.*, the international cloud year) are omitted, as are those which have been superseded by later votes. A very full index (subject and author) to the reports of the international meteorological meetings is appended to the *Kodex*, and adds greatly to the value of the work done at these important gatherings. The *Kodex* is not a book for general reading, but it would be well for writers of future text-books on meteorology and climatology to study it carefully, in order to give their readers the official opinion on such matters as the exposure and corrections of instruments; the hours and methods of observation, etc.

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ACADEMIC SALARIES

MR. EDWARD M. SHEPARD, the eminent lawyer and statesman, has addressed the following letter to the editor of the *New York Times*:

The 'Taxpayer' who has made by letter to you an attack upon the purchase of a house to be occupied by the president of the College of the City of New York, would have done better to have ascertained the facts before making anonymous criticism. There is no intention whatever to donate a house to President Finley. The college,

for the purposes of the more efficient performance of its work, already great, with its 4,000 students, and fast becoming greater, is to acquire a house close to its buildings to be used by President Finley so long as the college and the city are fortunate enough to enjoy the enormous advantage of his very able and high-minded administration, and, when that good fortune of the college and the city shall end (may the Greek Kalends come first) President Finley's successor will occupy the house.

The city itself acquires the house, without suggestion or hint from President Finley, as an economical method of making some part of a suitable increase to the compensation of the President (now \$8,250) and as a means to facilitate the performance of his many and varied duties. Even with the rent of a house, his salary will be less than that of any one of the police magistrates of the city or any one of the civil magistrates of the city; it will be less than three fifths the salary of any one of the supreme court justices. Yet every well-informed citizen knows that, in difficulty of his work and in its supreme importance to the general welfare of the city, President Finley's place is not surpassed by that of any judge, or, indeed, by any in the city, unless, perhaps, the places of the mayor, the controller and one or two others.

The plain fact is, and your correspondent 'Taxpayer' may take notice of it, that, even with the increase in salary which this house will provide President Finley, his salary and the salaries of the professors of the college are inadequate and not in fit proportion to the salaries at Columbia University or the High Schools and public schools. The Normal College recently extended an invitation to a distinguished educator to become its president at a salary \$2,000 greater than the salary of President Finley will be when enlarged by the rent of his house. The president and professors receive the same salaries which they had very many years ago. The professors' salaries (\$4,750) are to-day what they were thirty or thirty-five years ago; while the salaries of all other teachers and professors and of all others in the service of the city have been largely increased, and living expenses at New York have enormously increased.

I do not know the view of my associate trustees, but I shall ask them to submit to the Board of Estimate next fall a proposal to increase the salaries of the professors of the college, and, per-