

haps, to still further increase the salary of the president. Nor shall I object to the attendance of 'Taxpayer' before the Board of Estimate to oppose, if he see fit, but there in the open that we may know what interest he represents.

EDWARD M. SHEPARD,  
*Chairman Board of Trustees, College of  
the City of New York*

NEW YORK,  
June 10, 1907

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY has conferred its doctorate of laws on President Alexander Humphreys, of the Stevens Institute of Technology, and Dr. Edward G. Janeway, professor of medicine and dean of the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has conferred the doctorate of laws on Dr. Elmer E. Brown, U. S. commissioner of education, and on Dr. Henry F. Osborn, Da Costa professor of zoology in the university and curator of vertebrate paleontology in the American Museum of Natural History.

At the recent meeting of the American Medical Association at Atlantic City officers were elected as follows: *President*, Dr. Herbert L. Burrell, Boston; *first vice-president*, Dr. Edwin Walker, Evansville, Ind.; *second vice-president*, Dr. Hiram R. Burton, Lewes, Del.; *third vice-president*, Dr. George W. Crile, Cleveland; *fourth vice-president*, Dr. J. Blair Stewart, Atlantic City; *secretary*, Dr. George H. Simmons, Chicago; *treasurer*, Dr. Frank Billings, Chicago. Drs. T. J. Happel, Trenton, Tennessee, W. W. Grant, Denver, and Philip Marvel were reelected to the board of trustees.

DR. THOMAS E. DAVIS, of Pittsburg, has been elected president of the American Academy of Medicine.

AIDED by another grant from the Hodgkins Fund, held by the Smithsonian Institution, Professor A. Lawrence Rotch, director of the Blue Hill Observatory, will execute at St. Louis a sixth series of experiments with *ballons-sondes* next October, a season when observations at great heights in the free air are lacking in America.

DR. FRANK M. ANDREWS, who has been promoted to an associate professorship of botany at the University of Indiana, has been given leave of absence, and will spend the coming year at the German universities and the Naples Zoological Station.

DR. N. A. COBB, formerly pathologist to the government of New South Wales, Australia, more recently director of the division of pathology and physiology, Sugar Planters' Experiment Station, Honolulu, Hawaii, is now connected with the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

MR. H. A. BUEHLER, assistant state geologist of Missouri, has resigned to engage in professional work. His resignation will take effect on July 1, 1907. Mr. Buehler's successor has not been selected.

PROFESSOR CHARLES N. GOULD, of Norman, Oklahoma, reports the discovery, in the Arbuckle Mountains, of immense deposits of glass sand. Analyses made in the laboratories of the State University of Oklahoma indicate that the sand is more than 99 per cent. pure silica with no trace of iron. The discovery of this sand so near the extensive gas fields now being developed in that region is a matter of economic as well as of scientific interest.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR GEORGE A. REISNER, now on leave of absence from Harvard University during archeological investigations in Palestine and Egypt, has been appointed by the Egyptian government archeologist-in-charge of the government excavations which are being commenced in the Nile Valley to the south of Aswan. The work will consist essentially in carrying out the excavations necessary to insure the thorough subterranean examination of that portion of the territory which will be submerged by the Aswan Reservoir when at its full height of 113 meters above sea level.

At a meeting of the Jackson County Medical Society, held in Jefferson, Ga., on April 10, a monument to the memory of Dr. Crawford W. Long was presented by the society to the city of Jefferson and Jackson County.

The monument is to be erected on the spot where Dr. Long first performed a surgical operation under anesthesia.

PROFESSOR ALFRED NEWTON, F.R.S., who held the chair of zoology and comparative anatomy at Cambridge and eminent as an ornithologist, has died at the age of seventy-eight years.

DR. EDWARD JOHN ROUTH, F.R.S., the eminent mathematician of the University of Cambridge, died on June 7, at the age of seventy-six years. Dr. Routh made important contributions to mathematics, but was best known as a coach. From 1861 to 1885, with the single exception of 1883, the senior wrangler each year was one of his pupils, besides twice before that date and once afterwards—in all twenty-seven times. In the thirty-one years of his teaching career, from 1857 to 1888, he coached nearly seven hundred young men through the mathematical tripos, of whom more than five hundred took rank as wranglers.

DR. MAXWELL TYLDEN MASTERS, F.R.S., the well-known English botanist, from 1866 to the time of his death editor of *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, died on May 30, at the age of seventy-four years.

WE learn from *Nature* that a special meeting of the proprietors of the London Institution, Finsbury Circus, was held on May 8 to consider a proposed scheme of rebuilding, having for its objects "such an increase of revenue as would enable the committee to carry out the objects of the charter on a wider basis than at present, and at the same time to give improved accommodation to the proprietors." The scheme provides for the removal of the present lecture theater and smoking room, thus rendering vacant 10,612 superficial feet of land, to be let on a building lease for eighty or ninety years. The alterations would include a new theater, a storage room for 200,000 volumes, refreshment and other rooms, and the dividing of the present reference library into a reading room, small lecture room and a committee room. The cost is estimated to be about £15,600. Strong

criticism of the scheme led to the adjournment of the meeting for four weeks.

THE Cardiff public telescope and observatory are proving a decided success. During the last few weeks, in response to an appeal from Mr. Albert Taylor, a large number of teachers in the locality have applied for permission to use the instrument. The attendance of the general public also has been such as quite to warrant the corporation in the expense to which it went in connection with the observatory.

*The Electrical World* says: It is stated that so unprofitable have the insurance companies found risks on college buildings that there is prospect of a general increase in rates. The entire May issue of *Insurance Engineering* is devoted to an analysis of school and college conditions. From reports of 322 institutions the editor says: "We learn the lesson from the schools and colleges that precautions against fire have been generally neglected." In eighteen years the figures gathered show that 784 fires in college buildings have caused a loss of \$10,500,000 and a heavy loss of life. The average money loss has exceeded \$13,300.

LAST autumn Mr. A. Trevor-Battye made a tour on the Continent, and visited the principal zoological gardens of Holland, Germany and Austria for the purpose of observing the houses, cages and enclosures, and comparing them with those in the Regent's-park Gardens. Recently at the scientific meeting of the Zoological Society, he embodied his results in a paper, which was illustrated by a series of official plans and diagrams. According to the *London Times* two points specially impressed him—the care given to the preparations of plans of a house as part of a general scheme, and the tendency to get rid, so far as it could be done with safety, of bars and wiring. As prominent examples he cited the fine masses of rockwork for wild sheep and goats and the rocky areas for lions and tigers, separated from the spectators by a wide ditch, hidden by greenery, at Carl Hagenbeck's Tierpark at Stellingen. The method of shifting ostriches from the house to the paddocks in use at Hamburg was commended, as was the house

for small rodents at Berlin, where the animals are seen burrowing, separated by glass from the visitors. A full description was given of the monkey-house, where the anthropoids are also kept, at Rotterdam, and the details were explained by means of the working plan; and other places selected for praise in the garden were the stores, workshops, and infirmary for sick animals. The monkey-houses at Breslau and Berlin were referred to as showing how the difficulty of access to the open from central cages was got over by a passage the doors in which could be opened by the animals. The fine new block-house for deer at Breslau was mentioned as one of the best in Europe. In conclusion Mr. Trevor-Battye referred to the greater use of glass on the Continent for the protection of the animals, to the supply of water to bears other than the Polar species, and the better arrangements for lighting, and said that when one considered the conditions governing gardens in Great Britain the wonder was, not that they should be surpassed in some points, but that they should be carried on half so well.

A FRIDAY evening lecture at the Royal Institution was given recently by Sir James Crichton Browne, on 'Dexterity and the Bend Sinister.' According to the report in the *London Times* he said that during the last 2,000 years there had been innumerable eruptions of ambidextral enthusiasm, and some five years ago a new crusade on behalf of ambidexterity had been started. He held, however, that on the large scale ambidexterity was impossible and undesirable, that it was by the superior skill of his right hand that man had got himself the victory, and that to try to undo his dextral preeminence was simply to fly in the face of evolution. Right-handedness was a very old story; it was plainly discernible in the art of Greece, Assyria and Egypt, glimpses of it could be found among our ancestors in the Bronze age and in Paleolithic times, and some observers had detected foreshadowings of it even among the lower animals. All nations, tribes and races, civilized and savage, had in all times preferentially used not only one, but the same hand, and it

was impossible to point to any civilized race manifesting any degree of either-handedness; the statement that the Japanese were by law and practise ambidextrous, he could say, on the authority of Baron Komura, was without foundation. It was doubtful, indeed, whether, strictly speaking, complete ambidexterity existed in any fully developed and civilized human beings, though sometimes very close approximations to it occurred; but among microcephalic idiots, in whom the small headedness was due to arrested development, left-handedness and ambidexterity had been found to reach a proportion as high as 50 per cent. The source of right-handedness was much deeper than voluntary selection, and must be sought in anatomical configuration—in the structure and organization of the brain that initiated, directed and controlled all voluntary movements. The brain had two hemispheres, of which the right presided over the left side of the body, and the left over the right side, and it was clear that functional differences in the two hands were in some way connected with differences in the two hemispheres—differences not of weight or blood supply, as had been suggested by some inquirers, but of convolutional development. Study of the speech center in the third frontal or Broca's convolution had thrown a flood of light on the subject of right-handedness, for it had shown that damage to this convolution in the left hemisphere deprived the right-handed man of speech, but left the left-handed man with speech unimpaired, while in the left-handed man the contrary held good. Here, then, there was one-sidedness of the brain, assuredly not due to use and wont, or to any acquired habit or mechanical advantage. But the hand and arm centers in the brain were intimately linked with the speech centers, and therefore it was only logical to infer that the preferential use of the right arm and hand in voluntary movements was also due to the leading part taken by the left hemisphere. We could not, he believed, get rid of our right-handedness, try how we might. It was woven in the brain; to change the pattern the tissues must be unravelled. Ambidextral culture, useful

enough in respect of some few special movements in some few specially employed persons, must on the large scale tend to confusion; and pushed towards that consummation which its ardent apostles said was so devoutly to be wished for, when the two hands would be able to write on two different subjects at the same time, it must involve the enormous enlargement of our already overgrown lunatic asylums.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Michigan Legislature on June 13 passed the bill increasing the appropriation for the University of Michigan from a one quarter mill tax to a three eighths mill tax.

THE Mackay School of Mines is the name given to the department in the University of Nevada endowed by Mr. Clarence H. Mackay. Mr. Mackay has given money for a building and \$120,000 for endowment.

MRS. JOHN HAY, widow of the former secretary of state, and her sister, Mrs. Samuel Mather, have given Adelbert College, Cleveland, a memorial chapel in the memory of their father, Amasa Stone. Adelbert College was named after Mrs. Hay's brother, Adelbert Stone.

MEDICAL journals state that it is planned to rebuild the medical building of McGill University, which was recently destroyed by fire, on a plot of ground immediately opposite the Royal Victoria Hospital. The ground is owned by Lord Strathcona, who bought it for the purpose of preventing residences being built opposite the hospital, and who is believed to be willing to place it at the disposal of the university. The laboratory, which practically escaped the flames, will remain where it is, but the plot on which the medical building proper stood will be cleared and left for the general beautification of the grounds.

THE Carnegie Building and the Walker Chemical Laboratory of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute were dedicated on June 12. The addresses were made by Mr. Emil Swenson and Dr. William McMurtrie. The address in connection with the conferring of degrees was made by Dr. W. H. Wiley.

THE University of Wisconsin will this year give 476 baccalaureate and 49 higher degrees.

THE New York *Medical Record* states that at a recent meeting of the board of supervisors of the Louisiana State University, held in Baton Rouge, the charter and by-laws of the new medical college of the university, to be established in New Orleans, and the contract of assimilation between the university and the medical department were submitted to the supervisors and approved. It is the general understanding that this medical department is to be ready for opening during 1908.

DURING the past year the students in the department of geology at the University of Michigan have increased from 124 to 281. The regents of the university have met the demand for a larger instructional staff by making the following new appointments: E. C. Case, Ph.D., assistant professor of historical geology and paleontology; I. D. Scott, A.M., instructor in geology; L. P. R. Willoughby and W. E. Bliss, assistants in geology. An appropriation has also been made to equip an earthquake station at the university.

GEORGE V. WENDELL, associate professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed head of the physics department in Stevens Institute of Technology.

MR. FRANCIS J. SEERY has been promoted to an assistant professorship of civil engineering at Cornell University.

DR. WILLIAM SALANT, of the department of biological chemistry of Columbia University, has accepted an appointment to the position of adjunct professor of physiological chemistry and pharmacology at the University of Alabama.

MR. H. H. SEVERIN, A.M., of the University of Wisconsin, and Mr. S. Morgulis, A.M., of Columbia University, have been appointed to fellowships in zoology and entomology in the Ohio State University for the year 1907-8.

MR. A. D. IMMS, of Christ's College, Cambridge, has been appointed professor of biology at Allahabad University.