

considers⁴ to be not only the cause of fruit disease and canker formation, but also of the familiar leaf spot so prevalent upon apple trees.

F. L. STEVENS

N. C. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION,
WEST RALEIGH, N. C.,
September 16, 1907

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE American Society of Naturalists will hold its annual meeting at Chicago during Convocation Week. The topic of the discussion, the date of which is the afternoon of Tuesday, December 31, will be: "Cooperation in Biological Research." The speakers will be as follows:

Dr. Frank R. Lillie.
Dr. William Trelease.
Dr. H. H. Donaldson.
Dr. Simon Flexner.
Dr. W. H. Howell.
Dr. James R. Angell.

The dinner and the address of the president, Professor J. Playfair McMurrich, of the University of Toronto, are arranged for the evening of December 31. The exact hour and place for the discussion and also for the dinner will be given in a later announcement.

EDWARD L. THORNDIKE,
Secretary

TEACHERS COLLEGE,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE National Academy of Sciences is holding its autumn meeting at Columbia University, New York City, this week.

THE trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching held their annual meeting at the offices of the foundation in New York City on November 20.

THE Eastern Branch of the American Society of Zoologists meet at New Haven on December 26, 27 and 28.

THE winter meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America will be held in Chicago, December 30-31. The discussion of "The present problems of the bibliography of sci-

ence," will be opened by Dr. Cyrus Adler, of the Smithsonian Institution.

THE New York State Teachers' Science Association will meet at Ithaca on December 27 and 28.

THE Central Passenger Association reports that card orders will not be required in the territory of the Central Passenger Association, but that tickets at the reduced fare, for the Chicago meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and affiliated societies, have been made available to any applicant. Card orders, therefore, are necessary only in the territory of the Trunk Line Association.

ON the occasion of the dedication of its new natural history museum the Senckenberg Natural History Society of Frankfurt elected several corresponding members, including Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, director of the American Museum of Natural History and Dr. E. Ray Lankester, director of the British Museum of Natural History.

THE Anders-Retzius medal, bestowed every five years on an anatomist or a physiologist, has been awarded to Professor G. Schwalbe, of Strassburg.

A PORTRAIT of Professor Arthur Schuster has been presented to Manchester University. It will be remembered that Professor Schuster recently retired from the active duties of the chair of physics.

DR. SAMUEL G. DIXON, state health commissioner of Pennsylvania, has been appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to represent this country as an official delegate to the Third International Sanitary Convention of the American Republics, to be held in the City of Mexico, December 2.

PRESIDENT DAVID STARR JORDAN, of Stanford University, will lecture under the auspices of the New York Board of Education at Cooper Union on November 23. The subject is "The Human Harvest—a Study of the Biological Effects of War."

ON Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 P.M., beginning on November 12, Dr. Gary N. Calkins is giving a course of Lowell lectures on "The

Protozoa." The subjects of the lectures are as follows: (1) "The Lowest Forms of Animal Life." (2) "Their Habits and General Physiology." (3) "Protozoa and Protoplasmic Old Age." (4) "Problems of General Biology. Fertilization and Growth." (5) "Protozoa and Parasitism." (6) "Protozoa and Pathology. Malaria and Sleeping Sickness." (7) "Protozoan Parasites of Dysentery, Hydrophobia and Smallpox." (8) "Some Doubtful Protozoan Diseases." General Conclusions.

DR. DE CASTRO BARBASA, Inspector-general of railways and public works in Brazil, has, according to foreign papers, arrived in Paris from the United States, where he has been investigating the Mallet locomotive. Next month he proceeds to Italy to inspect the canalization of the River Pô, and to Egypt in order to visit the Assuan Dam and the irrigation works connected therewith. On his return to Brazil he proposes to undertake the irrigation of the region of the River San Francisco and the interior of Bahia, Pernambuco, Sergipe, Rio Grande do Norte and Ceará by means of a system of canals which he proposes to construct on a scale similar to those in India and Egypt, and thus to develop large regions which, up to the present, have been almost unexplored.

The Journal of the American Medical Association reports that the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Dr. L. R. de la Loza, an eminent physician and chemist in Mexico during the last century, is to be celebrated by official decree with due honors to his memory. Besides a special ceremony on November 15, a souvenir volume is to be published containing articles on chemistry from the professors of this science throughout the republic, and Loza's works are to be collected and published in a separate volume. The chiefs of the national medical, agricultural and preparatory schools form the committee, appointed by the secretary of public instruction, to take charge of the matter.

FROM the same source we learn that the issue of the *Revista Medica* for September is almost entirely devoted to doing homage to

G. Barreda, a physician who died in 1881, who revolutionized medical education in Mexico, and was one of the pioneers in organization of the profession and a leader in science. A notice is published from President Diaz and congress, announcing that \$40,000 has been appropriated from the public treasury for the erection of a suitable monument to Barreda. He occupied the chair of medical natural history and later of general pathology in the National Medical Institute, and was a leading practitioner in Mexico.

DR. LUCIEN MARCUS UNDERWOOD, head of the Department of Botany, Columbia University, and chairman of the Board of Scientific Directors of the New York Botanical Garden, eminent for his researches on the ferns, hepaticæ and fungi of North America, died by his own hand, while apparently suffering from an attack of acute mania, on November 16.

THERE will be New York State examinations on November 30, when a zoologist for the Education Department, with a salary of \$1,200, and an assistant to the state entomologist, with a salary of \$700, will be selected. There will also be at the same time examinations for electrical engineers and gas engineers with salaries ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,600.

THERE will be a civil service examination on December 4 and 5 for the position of miscellaneous computer in the U. S. Naval Observatory. Computers are paid by the hour and earn from \$1,000 to \$1,200. On December 11 and 12 there will be an examination for the position of assistant chemist in the Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, with a salary of \$1,200 to \$1,800.

MR. H. H. Taylor, manager of the North American Commercial Company, has under date of November 6, addressed a letter to President David Starr Jordan, which reads as follows:

On September 1, at Dutch Harbor, and in its vicinity, a heavy shower of volcanic ash occurred. At the time, it was generally supposed that Makushin had increased its activity, but investigation proved that the ash had not originated there. The

following from the log of our Dutch Harbor Station, received this morning, may interest you: "The U. S. S. *McCulloch* left Unalaska at 6 A.M. (Oct. 15) for a cruise to Bogoslof Island. She returned to Unalaska at 6 P.M. Bogoslof was found very much changed. McCulloch Peak had disappeared, also half of Berry Peak. It is now thought that the eruption of September 1st was at this island."

A NUMBER of Italian physicians and professors met at Perugia last month and organized a society for the study of the history of medicine.

AN institute for cancer research has been established in Japan, and a journal has been established exclusively for the publication of research work on cancer.

A SPECIAL correspondent of the Berlin *Lokal-anzeiger* has had a conversation with Dr. Koch on board the Prinz Regent *en route* from East Africa. According to an abstract in the London *Times*, Dr. Koch, who is in the best of health, told the interviewer that he had been living for the past eighteen months on a desolate island belonging to the Sesse group, in the middle of Lake Victoria Nyanza, with an army medical sergeant as his sole white companion. They dwelt in a straw hut similar to those occupied by the natives, and saw only three Europeans throughout their stay. Sleeping sickness is particularly prevalent in the Sesse Islands, the inhabitants of which are gradually dying off through the ravages of the disease. Dr. Koch discovered that the insect known as the Glossina Palpalis, which conveys the germs of the disease (trypanosomæ), breeds not only on the banks of the lakes, but also along the streams up to their source. Dr. Koch's remedy, consisting of subcutaneous injections of arsenic, has proved efficacious; and the chief means of fighting the disease lie in constant medical attendance and in preventing patients from going into hitherto uninfected districts. Professor Koch has ascertained that there is a distinct connection between crocodiles and sleeping sickness. Wherever crocodiles are found the disease may be discovered, but only in places near the banks. The blood of crocodiles forms the chief nourishment of the glossina, which sucks the blood between the

plates of the animal's hide. The extermination of the glossina is impossible, but the same end may be reached by destroying the crocodiles or by the removal of the bushes and undergrowth where the animals lurk.

ACCORDING to a press bulletin of the U. S. Geological Survey the production of platinum in the United States in 1904 was 200 ounces, valued at \$4,160; in 1905 the production was 318 ounces, valued at \$5,320; in 1906 the platinum production of the country amounted to 1,439 ounces, valued at \$45,189, a fourfold increase in quantity and more than eightfold increase in value over the figures for 1905. The principal feature of interest in the platinum industry during the year was the phenomenal rise in prices for ingot platinum, which, beginning with \$20.50 per troy ounce on January 6, 1906, had on November 17 reached \$38, remaining at this figure until the end of the year, after which there was another slight rise in price. In February, 1907, for the first time, a distinction was made between ordinary platinum and hard platinum, that is, platinum rich in iridium and osmium, considerable iridium being allowed to remain alloyed in the platinum of the ingots. Such hard platinum was quoted at \$41 per ounce on February 23, and this price held until April 6, 1907, when the placing on the market of more than 100 pounds of platinum by a new producer interested in American developments checked the advance, and on May 4, 1907, ordinary platinum was quoted at \$32 and hard platinum at \$35. Then a gradual decline set in and the price in October was \$23 for ordinary and \$25 for hard platinum.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the New York Botanical Garden an interesting fungus was recently presented to the garden by the China and Japan Trading Company of the city. A bale of cotton cloth, made in this country, stored for a year in Shanghai, China, and lately returned to New York by a Suez steamer, was wet on the voyage home, and, standing in the warehouse of the company here, developed the fungus. The fruit-body is about ten inches broad, six inches long, and four inches high. It consists of a mass of

pure white, overlapping, leaf-like portions arising from a common point of attachment on the outside of the bale and connected with the vegetative portion of the fungus (mycelium), which permeates the inside of the bale in the form of numerous minute white threads. The plant is readily recognized as belonging to the genus *Pleurotus*, of the fleshy fungi, but the species has not yet been determined.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that Columbia University has received an anonymous gift of \$100,000 to establish in memory of the late Henry Bergh a foundation to inculcate a spirit of kindness and consideration toward the lower animals.

By the will of Trenor L. Park, which has been filed for probate, Harvard University receives a bequest of \$25,000.

MR. HENRY STODDARD, of New Haven, who was sent to England in connection with the will of Mr. Blount, has returned. It is said that he reports that the amount of the bequest will be \$450,000. No light has been thrown on the question as to the reasons leading Mr. Blount to make this bequest.

THE sum of \$70,000 has been left by the late Miss Lucinda Bailey for the establishment and maintenance of an industrial school for boys and girls of Bath, Me.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE, retiring lord rector of St. Andrews University, has intimated his intention of giving £2,000 in addition to the £10,000 he has already given for the completion of the buildings of the university library.

ELEVEN teaching fellowships have been established at the University of Kansas for graduates of special merit. Each fellowship entitles the holder to \$265, and he is obliged to teach not more than seven hours a week. The remainder of the time is to be devoted to investigation leading to an advanced degree.

THE number of freshmen who have matriculated at Cambridge is, according to the *London Times*, 1,099; this is an increase of 78 over the number of last year. Since the beginning of the century there has been a steady annual increase in the number of students coming up to Cambridge in the October

term, with the exception of the year 1904, when there was a drop of two. In 1900 the entry was 841, and it steadily increased, except in the year mentioned, by about 20 each year up to 1905, when there was a sudden increase of 124. The numbers at the several colleges are as follows: King's, 45; Trinity, 204; St. John's, 62; Peterhouse, 16; Clare, 61; Pembroke, 79; Caius, 82; Trinity Hall, 44; Corpus, 27; Queens', 51; St. Catharine's, 26; Jesus, 61; Christ's, 66; Magdalene, 28; Emmanuel, 82; Sidney Sussex, 30; Downing, 43; Selwyn, 42; non-collegiate, 50. Of these, 15 are advanced students.

ACCORDING to recent data there are now in Germany 116 cities with special schools for backward children. The total number of these schools is 203, and the number of pupils is 13,100. Berlin has 31 of these accessory schools.

MR. GEORGE M. PLYMPTON, of the New York branch of Ginn and Company, has been elected president of the board of trustees of Amherst College, to succeed the late John E. Sanford.

LORD AVEBURY has been elected Lord Rector of the University of St. Andrews, succeeding Mr. Andrew Carnegie.

MR. EARLE G. LINSLEY has been appointed professor of geography and geology in the newly established department at California College, Oakland, Cal.

DR. NAOHIDÉ YATSU, formerly lecturer in Columbia University, has returned to Japan and has become lecturer in zoology in the Science College, Imperial University of Tokyo.

At Liverpool University, Dr. Joseph Reynolds Green, D.Sc., F.R.S., fellow and tutor of Downing College, Cambridge, lately professor of botany to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, has been appointed to the newly-created Hartley lectureship on plant physiology.

At Manchester University, Dr. C. H. Weizmann has been appointed lecturer in chemistry; Mr. J. M. Pring, B.Sc., Harling Fellow, demonstrator in electro-chemistry; Mr. F. H. Gravely, B.Sc., assistant lecturer and demonstrator in zoology; and Mr. J. L. Simonson, M.Sc., junior demonstrator in chemistry.