

education. If it is lost as a direct consequence of attendance to his duties, we have the best warrant for special provision.

The whole question of enforced pensions is endlessly complicated, the conflict between individualism and socialism being the most pressing of our civilization. It seems self-evident that if part of the salary of a professor is paid in the form of an old-age annuity, he must receive so much less salary at the time. It costs the same to pay a professor \$3,500 a year, or \$3,000 plus an annuity, the annual expense of which is \$500. The question is which is better for the professor and for society. The Carnegie Foundation descending, as it were, suddenly from heaven is certainly a windfall for a professor in an institution that did not have a pension system—perhaps he would like it still better if he were paid the cash value of his annuity, which in some cases would be as much as \$20,000. The foundation is also a godsend to the college president, the income of whose institution is generously augmented.

But these present gains to the individual may obscure our appreciation of what will happen twenty years hence. Our educational system will be richer by the income of \$15,000,000; but will the professor be better off because part of his salary is paid in the form of an enforced annuity? There are obvious advantages to the individual, to the institution and to society; but there are also difficulties and dangers. If we are to have an extension of paternalism, it appears that it should apply first to children and to the ignorant, rather than to university professors. Economic socialism may be inevitable and even desirable, but we must try to maintain intellectual and moral individualism. If we make an economic caste of university professors and put it under the care of a board of university presidents, the outcome may be a deadening of intellectual vigor and moral freedom in the university.

In accordance with your kind permission I shall print this correspondence in *SCIENCE*.

Very truly yours,

J. McK. CATTELL

#### ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN AUSTRIA

WE learn from the London *Times* that the professorial senate of Vienna University has issued a pronouncement in regard to the case of Professor Wahrmund, of Innsbruck, which deals with the questions whether a professor of canon law can be deprived of his chair in the juridical faculty of a state university if he comes into conflict with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, and whether it is admissible that the church should exercise control over the agreement of his teachings with her doctrine. It holds that if the principle that the teachings of a professor must coincide with religious doctrine were to be recognized, no department of human knowledge would remain unaffected, since all departments of knowledge have some bearing upon religious doctrine, and concludes that, inasmuch as a mere adroit attempt to influence the exercise of the right of the state or superintend the universities might in future introduce ecclesiastical influences into the management of the universities, the academic senate considers "inflexible resistance to efforts of this kind, however they may be made, to be a necessity enjoined by the vital principles of science." Professor Wahrmund has been requested by his colleagues of Innsbruck University to suspend his lectures for the time being, lest academic disturbances necessitate premature closing of the university.

#### PREDATORY POLITICS IN OKLAHOMA

MANY of our state universities and state educational systems have passed through a period of predatory politics. Fortunately, the good sense of the people must in the end prevail, and the more important the institution, the less danger is there from the methods of the ward politician. We regret that it is now the fate of the new state of Oklahoma to suffer disgrace in the hands of its politicians. Every republican has been deposed by the democrats from the head of the state institutions, including the University of Oklahoma, the College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, the University Preparatory School, the Central State Normal School, the Northwest-

ern State Normal School and the Southeastern State Normal School. We are tempted to print as a roll of dishonor the names of the Democrats who have accepted these positions, but this might be unjust in special cases.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM H. WALKER, professor of technical chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been presented by the New York Section of the American Chemical Society with the Nichols medal.

THE Rumford medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has been awarded to Dr. Edward G. Acheson, of Niagara Falls, for his work with the electric furnace. The Rumford committee of the academy has made the following grants. To Dr. Lawrence J. Henderson, of the Harvard Medical School, \$200—in aid of his investigation upon the direct determination of physiological heats of reaction. To Professor Joel Stebbins, of the University of Illinois, \$100—for his investigation on the use of selenium in photometry. To Mr. Willard J. Fisher, of Cornell University, \$100—for his investigation on the viscosity of gases.

WE noted last week the banquet at the Hotel Astor on April 9, to celebrate the silver jubilee of Dr. H. W. Wiley as chief chemist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. On the following day in Washington a banquet was tendered Dr. Wiley by the chemists and scientific assistants who have been associated with him in the work of the Bureau of Chemistry in expression of their loyalty and good will.

PROFESSOR RAYMOND A. PEARSON has resigned the chair of dairy industry at Cornell University to become New York state commissioner of agriculture.

*The Observatory* states that Mr. R. H. Tucker, now of Lick, has been offered the directorship of the proposed Southern Observatory to be established by the Carnegie Institution either in New Zealand, South America or South Africa, for the purpose of making observations of position of stars of

the southern hemisphere, according to a scheme suggested by Professor Lewis Boss, of the Dudley Observatory. The Pistor and Martins meridian circle of that observatory is to be transferred to the new establishment.

THE directorship of the Toulouse Observatory, vacant by the appointment of M. Baillaud to the National Observatory, has been filled by the election of M. E. Cosserat.

M. HENRI DESLANDRES, who since 1897 has been assistant director of the observatory at Meudon, has been appointed director to succeed the late Dr. Janssen.

THE Town Council of West Ham, London, has passed a resolution authorizing the placing of a bronze tablet on the house in Upton Lane, Forest Gate, now St. Peter's Vicarage, where Lord Lister was born.

WE have noted the election of Professor A. A. Michelson as honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy. The other honorary members elected at the same time in the division for natural science are: Sir Archibald Geikie, Professor J. C. Kapteyn, Professor J. D. van der Waals and Dr. A. R. Wallace.

DR. C. F. BRACKETT, Henry professor of physics at Princeton University since 1873, has resigned the chair and has been appointed professor emeritus.

PROFESSOR BOYD DAWKINS has resigned the chair of geology at the Victoria University, Manchester, which he has held since the year 1874. In accepting the resignation the council expressed the great regret its members felt at the professor's retirement from the chair, which he had held with such distinction and with such benefit to the university. It was gratifying to the council to know that Professor Dawkins would retain his association with the Manchester Museum, where he had done valuable work, and would also continue his popular lectures and special courses of lectures.

WE learn from *Nature* that Professor P. J. White having been granted leave of absence for six months on account of ill-health, the senate of the University College of North Wales has appointed Dr. W. A. Cunningham