

LONDON FOG AND COUNTRY FOG

LONDON fogs are often very thick; very dark, of the "pea-soup" variety; and very "dry." Fogs in the surrounding country at the same time are clean, white and wet. The difference is largely a question of the impurities, the "dust" of various kinds, in the air of the city. In *Symons's Meteorological Magazine* for December, 1907, a recent case of this kind is noted. On November 11, in the evening, there was a thick, dry fog, "with the pungent fumes of oxide of sulphur very noticeable" in London. Fifteen miles out of the city the fog was white and extremely wet.

NOTE

WITH the present number of *SCIENCE*, the publication of these "Current Notes on Meteorology and Climatology" ceases, so far as the undersigned is concerned. This step has become necessary owing to the increasing pressure of other work whose accomplishment is imperative, and for reasons of health which can not be disregarded.

Since the first publication of these "Notes" on May 1, 1897, they have appeared in 166 numbers of *SCIENCE*, on 721 separate topics. In addition, 19 book reviews and 7 short communications on meteorological subjects have been contributed by the writer during the same period.

If during the past twelve years the undersigned has been able, in some slight way, through these "Notes" to help his fellow workers in meteorology and climatology, and in science generally, to keep up with the more important advances in the science of the earth's atmosphere, he will feel well repaid for his labors.

ROBERT DEC. WARD

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,
April 27, 1908

LETTERS CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

GARRISON-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.,
May 23, 1908.

CHANCELLOR JAMES R. DAY,

Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.

Dear Sir: I have received from Dean Kent

a statement in regard to his dismissal from Syracuse University. It appears that you are unwilling to give the reasons for this action beyond the statement that he has been a disappointment to the administration and is *non grata* to the chancellor. It is obvious that a dean should work in harmony with the head of a university, and that there should be courtesy and consideration on both sides. If, however, a dean or a professor is placed in a position of subservience to the president, so that he has no freedom or initiative in his own department, or if he may not freely present his views to the president and to his colleagues, then his position is not tolerable, and no man of ability and independence would willingly accept a position in a university in which such conditions obtained. I do not mean to imply that there is such a deplorable state of affairs at Syracuse, but the dismissal of Dean Kent without a full statement of the grounds seems to confirm the reports that I have received from other sources to the effect that the chancellor regards deans and professors as subject to his individual will.

I venture in the interests of higher education to ask: (1) The grounds leading to the dismissal of Dean Kent; (2) Whether it is true, as alleged, that a professor who should show sympathy with Dean Kent would be liable to dismissal, and (3) whether you regard it as proper to dismiss a professor, if such action would not have the approval of his colleagues on the faculty.

I assume that I may print this letter and your reply in *SCIENCE*.

Very truly yours,

J. MCK. CATTELL

GARRISON-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.,
May 29, 1908.

CHANCELLOR JAMES R. DAY,

Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.

Dear Sir: I regret that your reply to my letter may not be printed, as it is a clear statement of the policy of academic administration which obtains widely in this country. I myself believe that this policy—according to which the president has autocratic control, subject only to an absentee board of trustees

receiving its information from him alone—is subversive of true university ideals. If all American universities should adopt such methods, we must look elsewhere for our best moral, social and intellectual life. If certain institutions only follow them, they will find it increasingly difficult to fill their chairs with men of the best type and indeed to maintain themselves as universities in the proper sense. You say: “Our professors have nothing to do with the hiring, continuing or dismissing of professors or students.” This may be your law and policy, but it is not true as a matter of fact. There is a developing group consciousness among scientific and university men, which will make it difficult to fill properly a chair made vacant by methods that they do not approve.

Very truly yours,
J. MCK. CATTELL

*THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR
MEDICAL RESEARCH*

MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER has offered to give \$500,000 for a hospital to be erected in connection with the Rockefeller Institute. It is understood that the necessary endowment will be provided when the hospital is ready. The letter from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to Dr. L. Emmet Holt, secretary of the board of directors, is as follows:

Understanding that in the judgment of your board a hospital building is desirable in order to facilitate the work of research for which the institute was founded, my father will provide for the purchase of land and the erection and equipment of a suitable hospital building, whatever amount may be necessary, up to a total of \$500,000, payments to be made as the work progresses.

My father thus enlarges the scope and possibilities of the institute in grateful recognition of the services of Dr. Simon Flexner, as director, rendered in those orderly and progressive scientific investigations, which, sanctioned and encouraged by your board, and aided by learned associates and assistants, led him at length to the discovery of a cure for epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis.

DARWIN CELEBRATION

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science will devote one day during convocation week next at Baltimore to the

celebration of the centennial of the birth of Charles Darwin (February 12, 1809) and the semicentennial of the publication of the “Origin of Species” (November 24, 1859). The program so far as arranged is as follows:

Introductory remarks by the president of the association, T. C. Chamberlin, University of Chicago.

“Natural Selection from the Standpoint of Zoology,” by Edward B. Poulton, Oxford University.

“Natural Selection from the Standpoint of Botany,” by John M. Coulter, University of Chicago.

“The Direct Effect of Environment,” by D. T. MacDougal, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

“Mutation,” by C. B. Davenport, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

“The Behavior of Unit Characters in Heredity,” by W. E. Castle, Harvard University.

“The Isolation Factor,” by David Starr Jordan, Stanford University.

“Adaptation,” by C. H. Eigenmann, Indiana University.

“The Bearing of Recent Cytological Studies on Heredity and Evolution,” by E. B. Wilson, Columbia University.

“Evolution and Psychology,” by G. Stanley Hall, Clark University.

“Recent Paleontological Evidence of Evolution,” by Henry Fairfield Osborn, Columbia University.

In the evening a dinner will be given, after which certain addresses of a more general nature will be given. It is proposed to print these addresses in a volume to appear during the centennial year.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the meeting of the American Medical Association held this week at Chicago the following distinguished foreign men of science are announced to present papers: Dr. A. E. Schaefer, professor of physiology in the University of Edinburgh; Dr. C. E. Beevor, last year president of the London Neurological Society; Dr. E. T. Collins, lecturer on ophthalmology at the Charing Cross Hospital and Medical School; Dr. August Martin, professor of gynecology at Greifswald, and Dr. E. F. Sauerbach, professor of surgery at Marburg.