

vacant last summer by the resignation of Professor Fernald. Mr. William H. Roever, B.S. (Washington, '97), Ph.D. (Harvard, '06), has been appointed assistant professor of mathematics to take the place of Dr. Wernicke, who has resigned. Dr. Roever has been for the last three years instructor in mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### MEANING OF THE SPANISH WORD GAVILAN

In a recent translation of a Spanish manuscript in the Bancroft Library of the University of California, entitled "A Mission Record of the California Indians," by Dr. A. L. Kroeber,<sup>1</sup> the following sentence occurs (p. 4): "They have a great desire to assemble at a ceremony regarding a bird called vulture (gavilan)." And in a foot-note it is stated that the bird "is more probably the eagle than the California condor, which the word gavilan properly indicates."

As a matter of fact the word *gavilan* means neither eagle nor vulture, but among Spanish and Spanish-Mexican people is the ordinary common every-day word for hawk. In the same language eagle is *aguila* (pronounced *ag'-il-lah*), but the California condor has no name (because it does not inhabit either Spain or Mexico), although the Spanish-speaking people of southern California usually call it *vultur*, or *vultur grande*.

There is no doubt, however, that several of the early Mission Padres failed to distinguish the eagle from the large hawks, and used the name *gavilan* indiscriminately for both; hence Dr. Kroeber is entirely right in assuming that the ceremonial bird of the Mission Indians of Southern California is the eagle. It is the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

In another place in the same article (p. 7, foot-note) Dr. Kroeber states: "Boscana, however, describes the bird as much resembling the common buzzard, but larger, which clearly makes it the condor." This seemingly

natural inference is entirely erroneous. Buzzards are large hawks—not vultures—and the bird we in America call "turkey-buzzard" is not a buzzard at all, but a vulture. Boscana's "common buzzard" is a large hawk closely related to our red-tail, and the bird he described as "much resembling the common buzzard, but larger," was of course the golden eagle. Had he meant the turkey-buzzard he would have used the Spanish-Mexican word *aura* (pronounced *ow'-rah*), which is the name by which the turkey-buzzard is known among the Spanish-speaking people of California.

C. HART MERRIAM

#### QUOTATIONS

##### PROFESSORS' SALARIES

THE finger tips of that virgin science, comparative college economics, have again been kissed by the investigators working for the Carnegie Foundation. "The Financial Status of the Professor in America and in Germany" is the theme of that institution's second bulletin, and the statistics therein arrayed baptize the new field of research with the good old family name, "the dismal science." The scenes unrolled do not conduce to gayety or pride. About a third of all American colleges report that their full professors receive an average salary of less than \$1,000 a year, while a scant half confess to paying between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Elaborate computations, based on fairly complete evidence, show "that an American teacher who has gone through college, taken a post-graduate course and prepared himself for the profession of teaching may hope to obtain at the age of twenty-eight a salary of \$1,250, at thirty-one a salary of \$1,750, at thirty-three a salary of \$2,250, and at thirty-five—at which age the able man will have gained his professorship—a salary of \$2,500." His German colleague, having survived the long ordeals of the *Privatdocent*, receives an income whose purchasing power is about 50 per cent. greater.

But such summaries bring few new griefs; everybody has long known in a general way that American college professors as a class have to seek odd jobs during vacation and

<sup>1</sup> *Univ. of Calif. Publications, American Archeology and Ethnology*, Vol. 8, No. 1, May, 1908.