

years ago, has been asked by the senate of the Berlin University to accept the chair of pharmacology in that institution. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* states that in order to dissuade him from accepting this offer a deputation of ten of the most eminent members of the profession, all professors of the Vienna medical faculty, waited on him and asked him not to desert Vienna, both for scientific and national reasons. This unusual act not only caused a widespread sensation in the profession, but also reminded the government that it is its duty to retain such eminent men at any cost. Professor Meyer will not leave Vienna.

PROFESSOR HARMS, of Jena, has declined the call to Kiel in succession to Professor Bernhardt, in order that Professor Bernhardt may be free to remain in Kiel. It will be remembered that Professor Bernhardt was offered a chair at Berlin by the Ministry of Education, but declined because this action had been taken without consultation with the faculty.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A PROTEST

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: From the announcements made at the recent college commencements in this country I learned with regret the surprising and disappointing fact that at various medical colleges the chairs of physiology were filled by foreign appointments. Two Englishmen were called to fill the chairs of physiology and of physiological chemistry at the medical department of Cornell University. The chair of physiology at Tulane University was also filled by an Englishman. And a recent cable informs us that a young German was called to fill the chair of physiology at the school of medicine now in process of formation in the Philippines, presumably an institution of the United States government. Permit me to say that this is an anomalous state of affairs, and is disheartening to those who are interested in the development of an active scientific spirit among the younger medical men in this country. How can the talented men among the medical students in this country be per-

suaded to devote themselves to research, to a scientific career in the face of the tendency to fill desirable places with foreigners? The objections are not raised simply because the men called to the above-mentioned places are foreigners. Newell Martin who was called some thirty years ago to fill the chair of physiology at Johns Hopkins, or Jacques Loeb who was called some fifteen years ago to Bryn Mawr, were then also foreigners, and fortunate would this country be if again another Loeb or another Martin could be added to its store of first-class investigators and teachers. Indeed, all of us, old and young, would have been only too glad if one of these colleges would have made a serious effort to bring over from England such men as Sherrington or Starling. The objections are raised because the men called from abroad are not better than some of our own younger physiologists. Furthermore, in one instance the appointment to a chair of physiology is puzzling indeed. It is true the appointee is a meritorious histologist and microchemist and recently translated a book on the chemistry of the proteids. But one searches in vain through the English literature for an original contribution to physiology which is associated with his name. Why then was the preference given to him over such American men who have identified themselves with physiology and contributed meritoriously to its literature?

In conclusion I wish to emphasize that the above comment is made solely in the interest of the younger generation of physiologists of this country and to obtain justice for them, if possible, on future occasions. But under no circumstances should these remarks be interpreted as being derogatory to the scientists who have accepted these positions. It is no offence to them to assume that we have in this country physiologists who can bear comparison with them. Their coming here is an accomplished fact and they may be sure of a hearty welcome from the members of the scientific community of this country.

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