

MR. B. E. PORTER, instructor in animal husbandry of the Maryland Agricultural College, has been elected professor of agricultural animal husbandry in the Hawaii Agricultural College.

DR. J. M. READE, formerly fellow in botany in Cornell University and during the past year instructor in botany in the University of Georgia, has been made professor of botany in the latter institution.

DR. HERBERT G. KEPPEL, of Northwestern University, has been elected head of the department of mathematics of the University of Florida.

DR. RUDOLF TOMBO, JR., while continuing in his professional duties, has accepted the secretaryship of the alumni council of Columbia University.

T. SLATER JACKSON, B.A., M.D., C.M., has been reappointed demonstrator in the biological department of McGill University, after an absence of three years, during which he visited the tropical seas of Africa and Asia.

THE following appointments have been made at University College, London: Mr. H. M. Hobart, B.Sc., to the newly created lectureship in electrical design; Mr. R. E. Middleton, to the lectureship in municipal engineering for the session 1908-9; Dr. A. W. Stewart, to the lectureship in stereo-chemistry, for the session 1908-9; Mr. G. C. Mathison, M.B., B.S., to the Sharpey research scholarship in physiology; Mr. W. F. Stanton, to be demonstrator in the department of applied mathematics, and Mr. H. S. Bion, to be demonstrator in the department of geology.

PROFESSOR ADOLF KNESER, of Breslau, has declined a call to a chair of mathematics at Leipzig.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR SALARIES OF THE INSTRUCTING STAFF AT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The reader of the article on "The Salaries of Professors in American Colleges and Universities" that appeared in SCIENCE, July 24, is led to conclusions that are clearly impossible when con-

sidering the data concerning Bryn Mawr College given in Table II. along with the data on "Academic Appointments" that are to be found in the Bryn Mawr College programs. The following calculations for the academic year 1905-6 illustrate this fact:

Grade of Academic Appointment	Number of Appointees in each Grade	Average Salary in each Grade	Annual Expenditure in Salaries in each Grade
Professor	8	\$2,500	\$20,000
Assoc. Prof.	8	2,000	16,000
Associate	15	1,500	22,500
Therefore	31	received	\$58,500
		at an average salary of \$1,887.09	
President	1	\$8,000	8,000
Therefore	32	salaries use	\$66,500
Total appropriated for 47 salaries			106,687
Balance for 15 salaries			\$40,187
		at an average salary of \$2,679.13	

According to the program, these 15 remaining members of the staff consisted of 3 lecturers, 9 readers and 3 demonstrators. It follows that in this academic year members of the staff in the higher ranks of professor, associate professor and associate averaged only seven tenths as much salary as members of the staff in the lower ranks of lecturer, reader and demonstrator.

When the data for the academic years 1904-5 and 1906-7 are treated in the same way, it is found that average salaries in the higher ranks mentioned were \$1,879.31 and \$1,983.33, respectively, while the average salaries in the lower ranks were \$2,454.83 and \$2,177.05. In the first of these years the staff numbered 48, and in the second, 49. The other years to which the figures in your table might have referred are 1902-3, 1903-4 and 1907-8, but these years are excluded because the instructing staffs, according to the college programs, numbered 50, 51 and 54, respectively, while the number in your table is 47.

Only two assumptions have been used in making the calculations given above. The first is that the president receives \$8,000. It will be clear to you that if this assumption involves an error of \$2,000, more or less, this does not have any very great effect on the conclusions. The other assumption is that

the \$106,687 given as "The Annual Appropriation for Salaries of Instructing Staff" is actually spent for the salaries of the instructing staff.

The absurdity of the conclusions raises the question of what is meant by "The Annual Appropriation for Salaries of Instructing Staff," which has been used as the basis of classification of the American colleges and universities. One would naturally think that it means the money spent on the salaries mentioned. If it does mean this, it is clear that Bryn Mawr College has received too advanced a position in the classification.

With great latitude allowed, the phrase might perhaps be interpreted as meaning money available for salaries though not necessarily so spent. This interpretation is particularly improbable in the case of Bryn Mawr College. Its alumnae have been trying during the last few years to obtain gifts of money from the friends of the college for an endowment fund, the interest on which is to be used to increase the salaries of the professors. In order to retain the older and better known members of the faculty in spite of offers from other institutions, the alumnae wish to have the salary of a professor raised from \$2,500, which has been the salary attaching to that grade, to \$3,000. They have already accumulated nearly \$100,000 toward this fund. If in the foregoing calculation we insert \$3,000 in the place of \$2,500 as the salary of a professor, it appears that an annual appropriation of \$106,687, if available, would not only have met this increased demand but would also have sufficed to have given the instructors of lower ranks, namely, lecturers, readers and demonstrators, an average salary of \$2,412.46. Making similar changes in the two other academic years considered, this average salary could have been \$2,260.38 and \$1,871.50. The calculation leaves no doubt that Bryn Mawr College if it had \$106,687 actually available annually for the salaries of the instructing staff would be able, unaided, to raise the salaries as the alumnae desire.

DAVID WILBUR HORN,
Associate and Associate Professor of Chemistry in Bryn Mawr College, 1901-7

AIR-SHIPS, PAST AND PRESENT

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In a review of "Air-ships, Past and Present" presented in SCIENCE, July 3, 1908, pp. 20-21, I notice that O. Chanute, the reviewer, gives 21,100 feet as the greatest altitude above the earth's surface heretofore attained by kites.

I do not know whether this statement was made in ignorance of the Weather Bureau kite flight of October 3 last, or not; but in any case you may wish to note in your journal, if not already there recorded, the following facts:

On October 3, 1907, one of the international dates for scientific kite flights, the Weather Bureau observers at Mt. Weather, Va., succeeded in raising a meteorograph to an altitude of 23,110 feet above mean sea level by means of kites. At that altitude the wind was WNW, the temperature — 5.4° F. For the flight 37,300 feet of piano wire was used and the number of kites required to lift were eight having a total lifting surface of 505 square feet.

CLEVELAND ABBE, JR.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Heredity. By J. ARTHUR THOMSON, Regius Professor of Natural History in the University of Aberdeen. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1908.

So much interest is now concentrating on the problems of heredity as a result of the abundant and important observations that have been carried on in recent years, following the leads of Mendel, DeVries and Galton, that a critical estimate of our present knowledge of the phenomena of inheritance can not fail to be of interest. Such an estimate Professor Thomson endeavors to give in the volume before us, which the author speaks of as an "introduction to the study of heredity," and which, it may be said at once, is a book well worth careful reading, bringing together as it does in a concise form the results of observations widely scattered in scientific periodicals, not always readily accessible and all more or less deterrent to the layman.

The author has endeavored to approach his subject *sine irâ et studio* and to a large extent he has been successful. He avowedly sails,