C.E. '08, and for the past five years engaged in railway work, has been appointed instructor in civil engineering.

A. R. Lord, B.S. in civil engineering, University of Maine, '07, and for the past year instructor in civil engineering of the same institution, has been appointed instructor in general engineering drawing.

F. W. Doolittle, a graduate of Lenox College, A.B. Princeton, a graduate in civil engineering, University of Colorado, '07, has been appointed instructor in theoretical and applied mechanics.

J. G. Kemp, A.B. University of Illinois, '06, and for the past two years assistant in physics at Purdue University, has been appointed assistant in physics.

E. C. Converse, A.B. University of Illinois, '04, and for the past four years a teacher in the public high schools, has been appointed assistant in physics on part time.

A. M. Elam, B.S. in mechanical and electrical engineering, State University of Kentucky, '08, has been appointed assistant in general engineering drawing.

Lewis McDonald, B.A. and B.S. in civil engineering, University of Illinois, '08, has been appointed assistant in civil engineering.

The facts set forth by the preceding statement emphasize the organic growth of the school of railway engineering and administration which was established two years ago by the University of Illinois. This school stands midway between the college of engineering and the department of economics. Its director is the dean of the college of engineering. Its organization within the college of engineering at present consists of an associate professor of railway engineering, in general charge, and especially concerned with the problems of railway equipment; an assistant professor of civil engineering, especially concerned with problems of the track; an instructor in railway mechanical engineering, especially concerned with locomotive performance and train resistance; and an associate in railway engineering, especially concerned with the specialized problems of electrical traction. Its organization within the department of economics consists of a professor of railway administration and an instructor in railway accounting.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

WILD JAMAICA COTTON

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: With reference to the interesting letters of Messrs. Colville, Britton and Cook in SCIENCE of April 24, I venture to write to mention that I have grown several samples of cotton seed from Jamaica, kindly sent by the Agricultural Department. One of the varieties grown appears to be identical with the one under reference except in the case of the flowers, which in my specimen were all yellow or pale yellow. The identity of the two varieties can easily be proved or disapproved owing to the fact that the bracteoles of my plants have only two to four teeth, while most varieties with which it could possibly be confounded have many more. It is quite distinct from *G. punctatum* Sch. & Thon. as are also many plants stated by Watt to belong to this species, *e. g.*, "the Hindi weed of Egypt"; it is, however, apparently identical with the specimen figured by him as *G. punctatum* var. *Jamaica*.

With reference to the main point raised in correspondence viz.: the explanation of a mixture of naked and fuzzy seeds. The seeds of my cotton were all naked, but seeds giving rise on sowing to exactly similar plants, and all bearing either grayish or brown, or green fuzz, were received from Trinidad, Nicaragua and neighboring regions. This supports the statement made by Mr. Cook, that the variation in the fuzz does not necessarily imply hybridization. Further evidence on this point is that these varieties come true to seed.

I have grown other varieties, however, which gave a mixed product similar to that in question. Owing to poor germination consequent on poor monsoons, I failed (while in India) to obtain very definitive information as to the numerical ratio in which this character in such cases passes from generation to generation, but in one case, at least (that of a cotton from Bagdad), it was found that both naked and fuzzy seeds picked from the same plant gave rise to plants bearing both

kinds of seeds. Now, Mr. Balls[1] and myself[2] have independently proved that fuzziness of the seed is dominant when crossing occurs between a naked and fuzzy seeded variety. If, therefore, the mixed character of the seed is due to its having been borne by hybrid plants, we should expect segregation of the characters and, on sowing, the naked character (recessive) having once appeared should come true to seed. As stated above, this did not, in the case noted, occur and the mixed character of the offspring is therefore apparently not due to the hybrid character of the parent.

So far as experiment has yet gone the nakedness or fuzziness of the seed appears to be subject to fluctuations that are unusually large even in this genus of large fluctuations. I have grown many varieties of cotton that differ only in this characteristic and come perfectly true to seed in respect of it and have further found that the fuzziness of a variety is decreased by growth under certain conditions.[3]

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QUOTATIONS

AS TO UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

The Popular Science Monthly has some sharp things to say editorially in its July issue in regard to the administration of American universities, with special reference to recent events at Syracuse, Cincinnati and in Oklahoma. There is not a little justice in the contention that whereas "elsewhere throughout the world the university is a republic of scholars administered by them," in this country it is "a business corporation." The complaint is not new, and it is being made more and more frequently of late. The editor goes on to say:

"The ultimate control is lodged in a board of absentee trustees, whose chief duty is the election of a president. The qualifications most regarded in the president are the ability to get money for the institution and a good presence at public functions; but he is expected to "run" the university. The professors and instructors are employed "at the pleasure of the trustees," and so long as the president maintains his position, this means at his pleasure. Advances in salary or position, appropriations for apparatus, etc., are subject to the same pleasure. In larger institutions the department-store system naturally grows up. Deans and heads of departments are responsible to the president, and their subordinates are responsible to them."

It is fair to say that the American ideal of efficiency is responsible for a system which has its virtues, and is unfortunate mainly because it comes into conflict with another and even higher American ideal, the ideal of democracy. In a great business organized under keen competitive conditions there is as little room for democracy as in the army. All other considerations must yield to that special efficiency which belongs to strong autocratic control.

But if there is any place where this system does not belong, it is the university. Here there is no mad scramble for wealth, no competitor to crush, no secret tactics to follow. Culture should be made not "to hum," but to blossom sweetly. More important than great gifts or new buildings or business-like management is the maintenance of academic freedom and of the dignity and self-respect of the faculty. The professor is, or ought to be, more than a mere employe, hired for a certain "job." And the president is, or ought to be, both more and less than a mere superintendent, to hire and discharge and make a good showing with his yearly reports. No single thing has done more harm to higher education in America during the past quarter-century than the steady aggrandizement of the presidential office and the modeling of university administration upon the methods and ideals of the factory and the department store.

That it does not in all cases work badly is due simply to the fact that the men are better

[1] "Year-book of the Khedivial Agricultural Society," Cairo, 1906.

[2] "Mendelian Heredity in Cotton," *Journal of Agricultural Science*, Vol. II., Part III.

[3] "The Cotton Plant," *Nature*, Vol. 77, No. 1994.