

results being given in the report. In addition to the researches mentioned, a number of routine tests were carried out in the various departments of the Reichsanstalt, some of these yielding interesting results from a commercial standpoint.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late Senator William F. Villas the University of Wisconsin will ultimately receive his entire estate, valued at between two and three million dollars. By the provisions of the will, Mrs. Villas receives the income during her lifetime, and after her death her daughter receives \$30,000 a year. After the property is given to the university, part of the income will be reserved until the principal becomes \$30,000,000. The will provides for the erection of a Henry Villas Theater, and for the establishment of ten professorships, each with a salary of not less than \$8,000, nor more than \$10,000 a year.

By the will of Frederick Cooper Hewitt, Yale University receives \$500,000; the New York Post-graduate School and Hospital \$2,000,000, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art \$1,500,000 and the residue of the estate.

THE General Education Board has offered Richmond College, at Richmond, Va., \$150,000, on condition that an additional \$350,000 be subscribed.

NORWICH UNIVERSITY, at Northfield, Vt., receives an unrestricted endowment of \$100,000 by the will of Colonel C. S. Barrett, of Cleveland, O.

MR. W. J. HORNE, lecturer in physics at the South African College, Cape Town, has been appointed to the inspectorate of the Transvaal Department of Public Education as organizer for technical education.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Whether the American Society of Naturalists should be preserved or not depends on whether it has an important work to do and whether its work

can be coordinated with that of other societies so that it shall be regularly called upon to perform its proper functions. I, for one, think it has a more important potential part to play than ever before, but whether it shall be permitted to play that part depends upon the cooperation of naturalists in general.

It is argued by those who regard the Society of Naturalists as an anachronism that natural history is no more, that in the differentiation and specialization that accompany the development of science it has broken up into botany, zoology, etc., and that these special sciences are each amply provided for by at least two national societies. It does not, however, follow because we have societies of students of plants, ferns, animals, birds, pigeons, carrier pigeons, insects and butterflies that the Society of Naturalists has become unnecessary. I conceive that even if we had a national society for each *genus* of animals and plants there would still be biologists who would find in a grand meeting of such societies no home. Indeed, the more you multiply societies on the basis of the material studied the more need for a society which shall bring together for mutual conference persons working on the general biological *topics* that are common to plants, animals, insects, butterflies. Our modern societies work directly against such a result. I may be working on heredity in insects and you on heredity in violets, but we hardly speak as we pass by because, forsooth, you are a botanist and I am a zoologist. Consequently we attend different meetings and we fraternize with different colleagues while we read papers of precisely the same theoretic import at the same time in buildings far apart, you to your colleagues who are interested in fossil cycads, in the hourly rate of growth of a gourd, in the development of a moss, or in a bog-society, and I to my colleagues who are awaiting their turn to tell of their discoveries in the circulation of an earthworm, in the properties of a new nerve stain, in the bird fauna of Christmas Island and the distribution of the Characinidæ of Brazil. No wonder we have so little discussions at our meetings with the diversity of interests represented and the scattering of