M. Dougmergue, the minister of public instruction. This reform received the approval of the French Academy as long ago as 1893, but has not heretofore received government sanction. It provides for the suppression of the "h" in the Greek group of words like "rhetorique," "rhinoceros," etc., the substitution of "i" for "y" in "analyse," "style," etc., the substitution of "c" for the sibilant "t" in words like "confidential," etc., and the extension of the "s" as a sign of the plural in words ending in "ou," "eau" and "au." It also provides for the suppression of the "h" in words like "theatre," the substitution of "f" for "ph" in words like "phenomene" and the elimination of the double "n" in words like "paysanne."

Since 1890 there has existed in Paris a little museum of hygiene, containing among other things, the exhibits which figured in the Paris pavilion of hygiene at the exposition of 1900, and which have to do especially with the sanitation of dwellings, the emptying of latrines and sewers, etc. According to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association there is now a plan to complete and to install the collections so as to make of them a real model museum of hygiene and sanitation. It will comprise the twelve following sections: Air and light (composition, meteorology; lighting of the city; lighting, heating and ventilation of the house); water (composition and bacteriology; flowing waters of rivers and springs, ozonation; distribution, filters, private baths, etc.); food and clothing (composition of foods, nutritive value, adulteration, sterilization of milk; hygiene of clothing, impermeability, etc.); preventive hygiene (disinfection, measures against fire, materials of construction); hygiene of infancy (feeding of infants, gymnastics); establishments such as hospitals, asylums, soup-kitchens; hygiene of special establishments (arrangement, heating, etc., of barracks, prisons, schools, cheap houses); residues of life (cemeteries and cremation; household refuse; rain-water and slops, night soil; sewers; emptying of used waters); public conveyances (omnibuses and fiacres; neatness, ventilation, disinfection, cleaning, etc.); smoke; demography; library.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

We regret to learn that the will of Frederick Cooper Hewitt, which made large bequests for public purposes, including $500,000 to Yale University, is being contested by a sister.

Governor John J. Johnson, of Minnesota, went to Washington on December 12, to invite President Roosevelt on behalf of the regents to accept the presidency of the University of Minnesota, but he declined this invitation.

Dr. Samuel Avery, head professor of chemistry in the University of Nebraska, was elected acting chancellor at a recent meeting of the regents, on account of the resignation of Chancellor Andrews. Dr. Avery will assume the duties of the office on January 1.

Hon. Timothy Hopkins, of Menlo Park, California, well known as a patron of zoological research, and for whom the nudibranch genus of *Hopkinsia* has been named, has been elected president of the board of trustees of Stanford University.

Dr. Hochstetter, professor of anatomy at Innsbruck, has been appointed to the chair of anatomy in the University of Vienna.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE FIVE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG

During August, 1909, the University of Leipzig is to celebrate its Five Hundredth Anniversary. It would be eminently fitting for the Americans who have taken their doctor's degrees at Leipzig to send to the university on that occasion some formal address of congratulation. A list of about one hundred Americans who have taken their degrees at Leipzig has been prepared, including all of the names of American scientists mentioned in "American Men of Science" and such others as could be secured from a few former Leipzig students in the vicinity of New York and New Haven.

A small committee has organized itself in

an informal way for the purpose of collecting suggestions and information. If the movement seems to be of interest to those who are reached by this letter, a more formal organization can be perfected later and the congratulatory message can be issued by a representative committee.

The undersigned, acting as secretary for the preliminary informal committee, begs leave to request (1) suggestions with regard to the mode of procedure which would be most effective in presenting to Leipzig University the expression of congratulation from former American students; (2) information with regard to Americans in all departments who have received their degrees at Leipzig. The present list is complete for all names included in "American Men of Science"; it is otherwise very fragmentary and should be supplemented even at the risk of duplicating names from various sources.

It is requested that replies be sent at the earliest possible moment in order that the organization may be completed before January.

For the Committee,

CHARLES H. JUDD

YALE UNIVERSITY,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.,
December 2, 1908

MALARIA IN THE WEST INDIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE for August 28, 1908, p. 273, a note taken from the London *Times* appears in which it is stated that "Malaria is very much less common in Barbados than in other West Indian islands" and that the small fish known as "millions" (*Girardinus pœciloides*) "destroys large numbers of the larvæ of mosquitos that spread malaria."

These are the usual newspaper statements regarding the habits of these very interesting little fish, and they have frequently appeared recently in different papers. They are, however, not quite correct, in that the malaria-bearing mosquito (*Anopheles*) does not occur in Barbados and it is generally believed that no case of malaria has ever originated in this island.

"Millions" eat the larvæ of mosquitos and many forms of aquatic animal life. The permanent pools and small streams which would be the natural breeding places of the *Anopheles* mosquito are inhabited by "millions." Other mosquitos are able to maintain themselves in Barbados because they naturally breed in water which is not inhabited by "millions," but there is a possibility that the absence of *Anopheles* in this island may be due, wholly or in part to the presence of enormous numbers of these small fish.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture has introduced "millions" into Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Jamaica and they have been taken to British Guiana and Colon. "Millions" are among the most active natural enemies of mosquitos and in any malarial country where they become established they will be almost certain to exert a very considerable effect on the prevalence of the malarial mosquitos, because they naturally inhabit the breeding places of *Anopheles*. In any locality where it is possible to establish "millions" in rain-water tanks, reservoirs, fountains, etc., much relief may be had from the mosquito nuisance.

The "millions" of Barbados are closely related to the top-minnows found in different parts of the United States, certain species of which are well known as natural enemies of mosquitos. Top-minnows from Texas have been introduced into the Hawaiian Islands, and similar fish have frequently been used in stocking streams and ponds for the purpose of reducing the numbers of mosquitos in certain localities.

H. A. BALLON

IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOR THE WEST INDIES

THE ODONATA OF MEXICO

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In my article on "The Present State of our Knowledge of the Odonata of Mexico and Central America," published in SCIENCE for November 13, 1908, I have unintentionally omitted the Ohio State University from the list of cooperating in-