

present admission is being refused to several hundred applicants each year. At Vassar the total number of students is limited to about one thousand.

The following changes in the course of study and additions to the equipment have been reported: At Dartmouth a new dormitory, New Hampshire Hall, accommodating 107 students, has been erected, and the chapel has been enlarged, its capacity having been increased about half. Wesleyan has adopted a new course of study, which substitutes the "group and major" system for the semi-required system of previous years. English is the only subject required of all students, while candidates for the B.S. degree must take some mathematics and some modern languages. North College, the new dormitory to take the place of old North College, burned a few years ago, was opened last January and is now fully occupied. The most important change instituted at Lehigh this fall is the establishment of a conference department, which provides extra instruction in modern languages, mathematics, physics, and chemistry for freshmen and sophomores, the purpose being to furnish help at a very low rate to students of the first two years who experience difficulty in handling their work. Smith reports the erection of a new college library, which is to be ready for occupancy next September, and Mount Holyoke the addition of a music hall—containing a concert room, class rooms and practise rooms—and a library, which are to be completed before the close of the present academic year. The Sanders Laboratory of Chemistry, at Vassar, is to be completed before the second half-year. An additional instructor has been engaged for the German department, who gives her entire time to colloquial practise. A half-year of work in the history of philosophy is now prescribed as a prerequisite for the senior

course in ethics, both of these courses being required at Vassar for the A.B. degree. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology physical training has been prescribed for all first-year students.

RUDOLF TOMBO, JR.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

(*To be concluded*)

JAMES FLETCHER

DOCTOR JAMES FLETCHER, botanist and entomologist of the Experimental Farms System of Canada, died November 8 in Montreal. He had been suffering for some time with internal hemorrhage, and went to Montreal to consult a specialist. He remained there for a week under treatment, but in spite of expert medical assistance the illness terminated fatally. Doctor Fletcher was one of the most widely known and most universally loved entomologists in North America. He was also widely known among the botanists and other men of science. He had been connected with the American Association for the Advancement of Science since 1883, had attended most of the meetings, and had thus become known to very many.

He was born at Ashe, Kent, England, March 28, 1852. He was educated at Kings School, Rochester, England, and came to Canada in 1874, taking a position in the Bank of British North America. Later he became connected with the Library of Parliament at Ottawa, and in 1887 was made entomologist and botanist to the Dominion Experimental Farms, and entomologist to the Geological Survey. His acquaintance with Canadian naturalists was, of course, even wider and closer than with those of the United States. He organized the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club and was president of it. He was one of the leading spirits in the Ontario Entomological Society, and for a long time had been a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, at one time holding the office of honorary secretary and honorary treasurer of that important organization. He was the heart and soul of the Botanical Club of Canada. He was also a fellow of the Linnean Society of London,

and had received the honorary degree of LL.D. from Queens University. He was also a member of the St. George's Society and of the Rideau Club of Ottawa. Doctor Fletcher threw his whole force into his scientific work. He was a practical man, and was constantly looking for the practical applications of both zoological and botanical science. At the same time he was a close observer and made innumerable observations of novelty and value. As a public speaker he was unexcelled, and the educational value of his addresses to farmers and others on timely and practical topics was very great. During the time of his occupancy of his official position he published a valuable series of annual reports which, in their bulk, constitute a compendium of the economic botany and entomology of Canada for the whole period. He published also many shorter articles in the scientific journals of both Canada and the United States.

Aside from the practical aspect of his work Fletcher was of the type of the old naturalists. He loved nature deeply. Asked a short time ago by a friend why he did not take a holiday and a rest from his incessant labor, he replied: "Why should I take a holiday? My whole life is a holiday because I love my work." Everything living interested Fletcher. To take an excursion with him was a delight. His quick eye saw everything. His philosophic mind sought at once for the why and wherefore. He had no patience with the careless and unobservant. In the course of a typically fascinating and eloquent lecture that he delivered years ago before the National Geographic Society in Washington, on the Canadian Northwest, he was describing the journey from Winnipeg westward on the Canadian Pacific railway. He had dilated upon the flower-massed prairies and the other natural beauties with his hearty enthusiasm and then, he said: "Suddenly the glorious mountains came in sight. I could not contain myself. I must share my delight with some one. I touched the man in the seat ahead on the shoulder. 'See, see the mountains'! I said. 'Ah! indeed'! said the man! And then," said Fletcher with a fine show of

indignation, "he went back to his *trumpery* novel!"

Among his many enthusiasms possibly his interest in the biology of the diurnal Lepidoptera was the greatest, and he was the first to work out the life history of *Eneis macounii* and other rare forms. His relations with that master of American butterfly lore, Samuel H. Scudder, were of the most intimate personal kind, and his death will be a sad blow to that other beautiful and strong character whose life is now fading away in Cambridge.

Probably no other Canadian naturalist was so well known and so well loved by his colleagues in the states as was Doctor Fletcher. Surely he will be as deeply mourned here as in his own country.

L. O. HOWARD

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

THE annual meeting of the board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution was held at 10 o'clock on the morning of December 15 at the institution. The chancellor, Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller, presided, and the following regents were present: Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks, Senator Shelby M. Cullom, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Senator Augustus O. Bacon, Representative James R. Mann, Representative William M. Howard, Dr. James B. Angell, Dr. Andrew D. White, the Honorable John B. Henderson, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the Honorable Charles F. Choate, Jr., and the secretary, Mr. Charles D. Walcott.

The appointment of the Honorable Charles F. Choate, Jr., of Massachusetts, as a citizen regent in place of the Honorable Richard Olney, resigned, was announced.

The secretary presented his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, which was accepted. Statements were received from the permanent and executive committees. The resignation of Dr. Cyrus Adler, assistant secretary of the institution, in charge of library and exchanges, was announced, and also the death of Professor Otis T. Mason, head curator of the department of anthropology of the National Museum.

A statement was presented of the affairs of the institution since the close of the fiscal