

and that of America, and if we follow the latter to its sources we find that the early English settlers on the east coast are the descendants of German conquerors of England and their extension towards the west was followed and reinforced by a powerful wave of peaceful German immigrants, differing in language but similar in kind, and both waves formed one population in which the old German spirit of expansion is very active.

It is a curious chance that America received its name from a German geographer. Old Professor Waldseemueller made a mistake, indeed, when he named the new countries at Brazil after the Florentine Amerigo Vespucci. It would have been far more just to name the new world after Columbus, but though Waldseemueller recognized his mistake and withdrew the name, it remained in use. And curiously enough, that Amerigo Vespucci whose name gave origin to the name of America, had himself, though an Italian, still a German family name, Emmerich, Emery in English. Thus America is a continent with a German name, the meaning of which might, perhaps, be interpreted as "rich in corn";² if this is correct, Professor Waldseemueller chose an incorrect but appropriate name.

There are many connecting links between North America and Germany, but the strongest of these links is mutual friendship. True friendship needs no long words. I say to my friend, "Come, enter my house and feel at home"; and so I invite you to enter my home with me and to listen to my lectures on Germany.

ALBRECHT F. K. PENCK

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

THE Commission appointed by the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations in 1906, to consider

² Amar, old German, a kind of wheat.

the organization and policy that should prevail in the expenditure of public funds for agricultural research, and kindred matters, has presented its report.

The members of the commission, David Starr Jordan, Stanford University, California, chairman; Whitman Howard Jordan, of Geneva, New York, secretary; Henry Prentiss Armsby, State College, Pennsylvania; Gifford Pinchot, Washington, D. C., and Carroll Davidson Wright, Clark College, Worcester, Massachusetts, agree in signing the report except that Mr. Pinchot makes some reservations. They summarize their recommendations as follows:

1. Every effort should be made to promote the training of competent investigators in agriculture both in the agricultural, and, so far as practicable, in the non-agricultural, colleges and universities, and their training should be as broad and severe as for any other field of research.

2. The progress of agricultural knowledge now demands that agricultural research agencies shall deal as largely as possible with fundamental problems, confining attention to such as can be adequately studied with the means available.

3. The work of research in agriculture should be differentiated as fully as practicable, both in the form of organization and in the relations of the individual investigator, from executive work, routine teaching, promotion and propaganda, and should be under the immediate direction of an executive trained in the methods of science who should not be hampered by other duties of an entirely unlike character.

4. The investigator should be free from all coercion whatever. In reaching his conclusions he should be equally free from the prescription of received opinion and the temptation to exploit his results for the purpose of obtaining future support. To this end, his work should be as far removed from immediate dependence upon legislation as is consistent with due responsibility to the public, and his relations to the public and to the organization of which he is a member should be such as to promote individual initiative and not interfere with freedom of conclusion or utterance on scientific questions.

5. There should be a clearer definition of the relative fields of work of the United States Department of Agriculture and the experiment stations. The dominance of the stations within their

respective fields should be preserved and their growth fostered, as agencies for the investigation of local questions and of the more individual scientific problems. The federal agency, on the other hand, should cultivate the almost limitless field offered by questions having national or interstate relations and by those broad scientific problems requiring heavy expenditures, elaborate equipment, long continued study and the correlation of the results of many investigators, which efforts are usually beyond the means of an individual station. On many questions the harmonious cooperation of the two agencies is essential to the highest efficiency of effort.

6. Any research agency charged with a single main line of investigation should be so organized that it may employ within itself all necessary processes in any branch of science. The cooperation of any or all the departments of an experiment station on a single problem, when necessary, should be a fundamental requirement.

7. Research work, both national and state, should be provided for by separate, lump-sum appropriations, to be distributed according to the discretion of the responsible executive head of each agency.

8. Investigation into the business, economic, social and governmental conditions affecting agriculture should be undertaken and should be maintained on a permanent and effective basis.

9. An advisory board is suggested consisting of members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and by the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, respectively, which shall confer with the Secretary of Agriculture regarding the mutual interests of the department and the stations and shall consider the promotion of agricultural investigation in general.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

THE number of scholars in residence at Oxford under the Rhodes bequest during the academic year 1907-8 was 156. Sixty-six were from colonies of the empire, 11 from Germany and 79 from the United States of America. In addition to these, 11 men whose scholarship term had expired continued to reside in the university for a whole or part of the year; 1 as an official fellow, 2 as lecturers, 1 as a Senior Demy of Magdalen and 6 for further study in various subjects. At the end of the summer term 54 scholars completed

their course at the university and took their examinations. At the beginning of the October term 1908 there was an entry of 78 new scholars, while 3 other scholars (colonial) who had temporary leave of absence returned to complete their course. The whole number of scholars in residence for the academic year 1908-9 is therefore 178. These are distributed as follows among the colleges: 15 at Balliol, 14 at Christ Church, 13 each at Exeter and Queens, 12 at St. John's, 11 each at Hertford, New College and Worcester, 10 each at Merton and Wadham, 9 at Oriel, 8 each at Lincoln and Pembroke, 7 each at Brasenose, Trinity and University, 6 at Magdalen, 4 at Jesus and 2 at Corpus. There are, in addition, 11 ex-scholars in residence for the October term, engaged either in teaching, research or special study for examination. The total so reached of 189 is the highest point in numbers hitherto attained. The work of the scholars now in residence is distributed as follows over the different courses of study organized in the university: Literæ Humaniores, 20; natural science (geology, chemistry, physiology and physics), 18; jurisprudence, 38; history, 20; mathematics, 4; theology, 9; English literature, 7; oriental languages, 1; modern languages, 4; Honor Moderations—classical, 3.

THE DARWIN CENTENARY

IN addition to the exercises in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and elsewhere in honor of the hundredth anniversary of Darwin's birth, which have already been noted in SCIENCE, memorial exercises were arranged by several other institutions.

At Cornell University the event was commemorated by two lectures by Professor J. H. Comstock on "The Basis of the Theory of Evolution," a lecture on "The Relation of Darwinism to the Modern Theories of Evolution," by Professor Herbert J. Weber, and an address by President Schurman on "Darwinism and Modern Thought."

At a special meeting of the Scientific Association of the University of Missouri, held on February 12, in commemoration of the