

fluence of the doctrines of natural selection and evolution on the development of thought and the progress of humanity. Dr. Arthur Erwin Brown, one of the vice-presidents, referred to the fact that the academy had been the first society in America to recognize the importance of Darwin's work and quoted from his letter to Lyell, of May 8, 1860, in which he says: "This morning I got a letter from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, announcing that I am elected a correspondent. . . . It shows that some naturalists there do not think me such a scientific profligate as many think me here." Dr. Brown also read a letter addressed by Darwin to Dr. Joseph Leidy, under date of March 4, 1860, acknowledging receipt of publications, expressing appreciation of Dr. Leidy's work and returning thanks for his support of the doctrine of natural selection. Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, also vice-president, then read a memoir of Darwin dwelling on the importance of his work in science and on the relation of the doctrine of natural selection to modern thought. A collection of Darwin's works and his letter of acknowledgment of election as correspondent of the academy were exhibited.

THE biological and botanical departments of Brown University held a meeting commemorative of the Charles Darwin Centennial on February 12. The program was:

Introductory remarks with exhibition of portraits of Darwin and his contemporaries, by A. D. Mead.

"Darwin's Relation to Theories of Heredity," by Professor W. E. Castle, of Harvard University.

"Darwin's Influence on Practical Breeding in the Work of Luther Burbank," by Dr. George H. Shull, of the Carnegie Institution, Station for Experimental Evolution.

THE State University of Iowa celebrated the Darwin Centennial by two addresses at the assembly of all colleges. Professor C. C. Nutting spoke upon the personal traits of Darwin, and Professor T. H. Macbride upon his contributions to botany. The Baconian Club devoted its evening program to the memory of Darwin and addresses were made on his contributions to zoology, botany and psychol-

ogy by Professors G. L. Houser, B. F. Shimek and C. E. Seashore, respectively.

THE Society of Arts held a meeting in commemoration of the birth of Charles Darwin at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Addresses were made by Professor William T. Sedgwick, of the biological department, and Professor Percival Lowell, non-resident professor of astronomy at the institute and director of the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz.

THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

Two special recommendations have been made by the executive committee of the Carnegie Foundation to the board of trustees and, having been adopted by the board, have been incorporated in the rules of the foundation. By one of these recommendations the maximum amount of a retiring allowance is raised from \$3,000 to \$4,000, and by the other the executive committee is directed to grant a pension to the widow of a professor in an accepted institution who has been for ten years married to the professor, the pension to be one half of what the husband would have been entitled to receive. Heretofore the pensions to widows have been only permissory. They have now been raised from discretionary ones to a certain provision by the adoption of the following rule:

Any person who has been for ten years the wife of a professor either in receipt of a pension or entitled to receive one shall receive during her widowhood one half of the allowance to which her husband was entitled.

The rules for the granting of retiring allowances in force January 4, 1909, are as follows:

A normal retiring allowance is considered to be one awarded to a professor in an accepted college, university or technical school, on the ground either of age or of length of service. The term professor, as here used, is understood to include presidents, deans, professors, associate professors and assistant professors in such institutions of higher learning.

In reckoning the amount of the retiring allowance the average salary for the last five

years of active service shall be considered the active pay.

Retiring allowances shall be granted under the following rules, upon the application of the institution with which the professor is connected. Application blanks for this purpose are furnished by the foundation. The ground upon which the application is recommended, whether it is upon the basis of age or upon the basis of service, should be stated in each case.

1. *Basis of Age*.—Any person sixty-five years of age, who has had not less than fifteen years of service as a professor and who is at the time a professor in an accepted institution, shall be entitled to an annual retiring allowance, computed as follows:

(a) For an active pay of twelve hundred dollars or less, an allowance of one thousand dollars, providing no retiring allowance shall exceed ninety per cent. of the active pay.

(b) For an active pay greater than twelve hundred dollars the retiring allowance shall equal one thousand dollars, increased by fifty dollars for each one hundred dollars of active pay in excess of twelve hundred dollars.

(c) No retiring allowance shall exceed four thousand dollars.

Computed by the formula: $R = A/2 + 400$ where R = annual retiring allowance, A = active pay.

2. *Basis of Service*.—Any person who has had a service of twenty-five years as a professor, and who is at the time a professor in an accepted institution, shall be entitled to a retiring allowance computed as follows:

(a) For an active pay of twelve hundred dollars or less, a retiring allowance of eight hundred dollars, provided that no retiring allowance shall exceed eighty per cent of the active pay.

(b) For an active pay greater than twelve hundred dollars, the retiring allowance shall equal eight hundred dollars, increased by forty dollars for each one hundred dollars in excess of twelve hundred dollars.

(c) For each additional year of service above twenty-five, the retiring allowance shall be increased by one per cent. of the active pay.

(d) No retiring allowance shall exceed four thousand dollars.

Computed by the formula: $R = A/100(b + 15) + 320$ where R = retiring allowance, A = active pay and b = number of years of service.

3. Any person who has been for ten years the

wife of a professor either in receipt of a pension or entitled to receive one shall receive during her widowhood one half of the allowance to which her husband was entitled.

4. In the preceding rules, years of leave of absence are to be counted as years of service, but not exceeding one year in seven. Librarians, registrars, recorders and administrative officers of long tenure, whose salaries may be classed with those of professors and assistant professors, are considered eligible to the benefits of a retiring allowance.

5. Teachers in the professional departments of universities, whose principal work is outside the profession of teaching, are not included.

6. The benefits of the foundation shall not be available to those whose active service ceased before April 16, 1905, the date of Mr. Carnegie's original letter to the trustees.

7. In counting years of service toward a retiring allowance, it is not necessary that the whole of the service shall have been given in institutions upon the accepted list of the foundation.

8. In no case shall any allowance be paid to a teacher who continues to give the whole or part of his time to the work of teaching as a member of the instructing staff of a college or technical school.

9. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching retains the power to alter these rules in such manner as experience may indicate as desirable for the benefit of the whole body of teachers.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Berlin Academy of Sciences has awarded its Helmholtz medal to Professor Emil Fischer, for his work on the sugars and albuminoids.

DR. FRANK D. ADAMS, dean of the faculty of applied science and professor of geology at McGill University, has been elected an honorary life member of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy of Great Britain.

THE Royal Society of Arts has presented its Albert medal to Sir James Dewar, F.R.S., for his investigations into the liquefaction of gases and the properties of matter at low temperatures.

THE managers of the department of archeology of the University of Pennsylvania have awarded the Lucy Wharton Drexel medal, for