

In the Nebraska legislature the joint resolution accepting the Carnegie pensions for the State University was defeated, although it was passed in the senate by a vote of 25 to 8. In the house it was opposed by Mr. W. J. Bryan, and was lost by a vote of 47 to 51. The matter now goes over to the next legislature.

THE University of Colorado Mountain Laboratory, a department of the university's summer school, opens a six-week session on June 14, under the direction of Dr. Francis Ramaley. It is situated at Tolland, Colo., at an altitude of 8,889 feet. Courses are offered in general biology, nature study, plant ecology, anatomy and taxonomy and special lectures will be given on forestry, ornithology, physiology, climatology, glacial geology, photography and map-making.

THE Rev. Dr. Marion Leroy Burton, pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, has been offered the presidency of Smith College, to succeed the Rev. Dr. L. Clarke Seelye.

At the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, Dr. R. Burton-Opitz, adjunct professor of physiology, has, on the retirement of Professor John G. Curtis, been appointed head of the department of physiology. In the department of the practise of Medicine, Dr. Walter B. James has, at his request, been transferred from the Bard professorship, which involved the administration of the department, to a professorship of clinical medicine, and Dr. Theodore C. Janeway and Dr. Evan M. Evans, now associates in medicine, have been promoted—Dr. Janeway to the Bard professorship and Dr. Evans to a newly created professorship of clinical medicine.

DR. GEORGE H. LING, of the department of mathematics, Columbia University, has been advanced to the rank of adjunct professor.

At Cornell University, Professor H. H. Norris has been appointed professor of electrical engineering in charge of the department.

THE professorship of physics at Lafayette College, made vacant by the death of Professor James W. Moore, M.D., has been filled by the appointment of Professor Clarence McCheyne Gordon, Ph.D., now professor of

physics at Center College of Central University, at Danville, Ky.

DR. HERMANN DÜRK, of Munich, has been appointed professor of pathological anatomy at Jena.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

WILLIAM KEITH BROOKS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Professor Andrews's tribute in your issue of December 4, 1908, gave the first sad intimation to western readers of the death of Dr. Wm. K. Brooks, and very acceptable information concerning his later years, much of which was news to the present writer by reason of enforced separation in work and experience. Knowing thoroughly the innate worth of the man, from intimate relations as a companion of early youth, neighbor, schoolmate and associate in early scientific work, I am minded to record a few facts which have direct bearing upon the cost to himself of Brooks's contributions to biology.

In all his training at home, in school and at college, he was rigidly surrounded with influences adverse to original research or to scientific study. His mother died before his bent had become sufficiently pronounced to arouse opposition, and it is doubtful if she would have essayed to thwart him, for she was a lady of rare qualities and keenly sympathetic with her children's dispositions. His father and his stepmother were strong adherents to the unyielding utilitarian ideas of the times, and could not then recognize the full meaning of the struggle of the youthful mind.

In 1875, near the period of culmination of the strife engendered by Darwin's work, it was no light thing to withstand the well-meant resistance of good friends who could see naught but wickedness in the new ideas. Then Brooks's character shone brightly to those who knew him best. It was, perhaps, a very little result which came from the session of the Kirtland Summer School of Natural History, in Cleveland, in that year. But it signified much more than was apparent. It was the outcome of many earnest discussions by Brooks and the writer, after some consultation

with the then aged Dr. Jared P. Kirtland. We decided to ask the Kirtland Society of Natural History to act as sponsor for our plans. Although this was conceded, and an effort was made to finance the project, it was but a gloomy outlook before the volunteer instructors when the students began to register. Albert H. Tuttle, now professor in the University of Virginia, Wm. K. Brooks and the writer, all then earning a scanty living by work not germane to the task, came before the little band of students almost empty handed. Certain influential members of the Kirtland Society had successfully prevented our use of the society's working rooms, on the ground that the smells and refuse from dissections would annoy other tenants and injure the building. The officers endeavored to raise funds, but the subscription papers headed by them were signed for such small sums that those who might otherwise have given more freely were limited by them. The money actually secured would not cover the cost of collections, to say nothing of freight and other expenses. We decided to put on a bold front, and to start with such home material as we might individually collect or purchase in local markets. But it was found impossible to rent other quarters, owing to prejudice against our "bloody" work. After anxious consultations, the plan suggested by Brooks was adopted. We would hold field sessions and depend upon enthusiasm and contact with nature to somehow work out results. As a last resort, it might be possible to utilize the barn of good old Dr. Kirtland, miles out in the country.

At this juncture there came forward keen-sighted men whose memories should be revered by all who have made sacrifices for science. Andrew J. Rickoff, then superintendent of schools of Cleveland, urged the board of education to offer free use of the Central High School Building and its appurtenances to us, as three of its former pupils, during the vacation. A resolution was passed, referring the matter to the superintendent of buildings, with power, provided that all damages accruing from dissections, etc., be made good by the summer school. There were pressures of the

hand, words of encouragement and quiet exercises of influence from the great-hearted Rickoff which gave inspiration to Brooks in his splendid work of that summer. Leonard Case, owner of the building occupied by the Kirtland Society, had at first approved the use of the society rooms by the school. The adverse influences, and more particularly the objections of tenants, had caused him to rescind this privilege. He had not personally subscribed to the sustaining fund, and no one regarded him as in any way favorably inclined to our project. It was a gloomy outlook which confronted the instructors on the day before the opening, when only three teachers (from Indianapolis) had registered (Dr. David Starr Jordan was probably responsible for these). The writer, as editor of a "science column" in the Cleveland *Herald*, had published widely the plans and this appeared to be the sole outcome of months of labor and sacrifice. Mr. Benedict, proprietor of the *Herald*, and J. H. A. Bone, its talented editor, had given warm support liberally in print and by those little words which lie stored forever in memory. But to Brooks and us the apparent misunderstanding of Leonard Case was a most disheartening blow.

I can never forget the conference with Brooks in the office of the Kirtland Society, where the gross results were canvassed towards evening of that day. In words like these he spoke: "I am glad there are three of them—one apiece, all women. What could we have done—we three—if there had been but one? Three teachers, well trained, means the sowing of seed which shall yield a harvest none can measure."

We parted for the night. Left alone and heartsick, I saw Leonard Case enter the room as if he were about to do something mean. He asked "How did you come out?" "Oh, fairly," was the reply. "I don't suppose you got any too much for collections and excursions, did you?" He was told that we could manage somehow. Then he blushed and appeared ill at ease, remarking that he had regretfully kept us out of the rooms and that he had watched our work and knew with whom

he was dealing. "I don't believe you will have any trouble in finding use for a little more. Here is a trifle for you to apply, on just one condition. Put it in your pocket and expend it as you choose. Make no note of it in your accounting." He left, with a rough yellow envelope sealed in my hands. This contained seven bills of \$100 each. The total contributions raised outside of this did not amount to \$200, as I recall.

And the school grew. The work of Brooks was prophetic of his future career. Collections and excursions and dissections were made possible. Dr. John S. Newberry gave us two lectures on geology which were beyond and above any I ever heard for concise completeness. If from this poor little effort there came forth no other good than the launching of Brooks upon his most worthy career, it is honor indeed to have shared in the cost thereof.

THEO. B. COMSTOCK

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Histologisches Practicum der Tiere. By DR.

KARL CAMILLO SCHNEIDER, A. O. Professor in the University of Vienna. With 434 text-figures. Jena, Gustav Fischer. 1908.

In view of the excellence of the first edition of K. C. Schneider's histology, which appeared about six years ago, students of the subject will welcome this new edition recently published by Fischer in Jena. The wide circulation of the first edition, together with the importance attached to it by all scientists, will enable the writer to more easily review the last edition by some slight reference to the first.

In general, it may be said that the author has endeavored, by shortening his "*Lehrbuch der vergleichenden Histologie*," and by slightly rearranging it, to make it more practical and to adapt it to the use of university students taking a "course" in the subject. While doing this, some of the subject-matter has been rewritten to accord with the results of recent research, and some entirely new work has been added.

The first or general part of the work opens, after the preface, with an introduction, in

which the subject is defined and the view-point and method of treatment outlined. This discussion is concluded (p. 5) with two ideas which give the author's conception of histology and, of necessity, fix the form of arrangement of the whole book. The first idea is that histology should concern itself only with structure or form and should be studied and treated without regard to function. Secondly, that being a fundamental morphological study, it underlies any natural scheme of classification. The reviewer presumes that by "natural classification" is meant the classification founded upon blood relationship through evolution.

The reviewer does not wish to criticize this conception as the guiding principle in a histological course, being fully impressed with its educational value in a book so well executed as that under review. He does, however, wish to call attention to another view, held by some workers including himself, which looks upon histological structure as the important machinery through which the varied functions of organisms are performed and life is maintained. Such a view, which lays special stress on the cytological and chemical side of histology without making it altogether a study of physiology, has prompted the writing of such text-books as Prenant's "*Traite D'Histologie*" and Martin Heidenhain's "*Plasma und Zelle*." The introduction concludes with a discussion of some of the principal features of animal morphology or "*Architektonik*," followed by a systematic arrangement of the animal kingdom on this basis.

The remainder of the "general part" is taken up with an account of the structure of the cell, of cell division, and of the working substances of the cell; also a special account of the various groups of cells (under eleven types) and a very short account of some general principles of tissue and organ building, this latter being the last of the "general part" of the work which occupies 75 pages out of the entire 518 in the volume. When we notice that this "general part" occupied 240 pages in the former edition instead of 75, it can be seen how greatly this portion of the present edition has been reduced. This reduction has