

fessor of mathematics at Brünn, at the age of fifty-one years.

THE seventh International Congress of Applied Chemistry opened in London on May 27, with some three thousand members in attendance. At the opening exercises Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, replied for the United States.

THE ninety-second annual meeting of the Société helvétique des sciences naturelles will be held at Lausanne on September 5-8, under the presidency of M. Henri Blanc.

THE annual congress of the Southeastern Union of Scientific Societies will be held at Winchester on June 9-12, under the presidency of Dr. Dukinfield H. Scott, F.R.S.

At the National Conference on Criminal Law and Criminology held in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Northwestern University School of Law at Chicago from June 7-9, the Honorable Charles S. Deneen, governor of Illinois, has consented to act as temporary chairman. In order to facilitate organization, the committee of organization will nominate (with his consent) for permanent chairman, James Hagerman, Esq., of St. Louis, sometime president of the American Bar Association. The committee will also nominate for temporary chairman of the Section on Treatment (Penal and Remedial) of Offenders, Dr. E. T. Devine, professor of social economy in Columbia University, New York; for temporary chairman of the Section on Organization, Appointment and Training of Officials, Dr. Edward A. Ross, professor of sociology in the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin; for temporary chairman of the Section on Criminal Law and Procedure, William E. Mikell, Esq., professor of law in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

THE Chicago Chapter of the Sigma Xi Society held its biennial election of officers on May 25, 1909, which resulted as follows: *President*, E. H. Moore; *Vice-president*, R. R. Bensley; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Oscar Riddle; *Corresponding Secretary and Councilor*, Julius Stieglitz. The paper of the evening was presented by Mr. Bailey Willis, U. S.

Geological Survey, upon "China, the Land and the People."

THE Iota Chapter of the Alpha Chi Sigma Chemical Fraternity was installed at Rose Polytechnic Institute on May 22 by Mr. L. S. Palmer, of the University of Missouri; Dr. J. H. Mathews, of the University of Wisconsin, and Mr. O. C. Stanger, of the University of Illinois. The following men constitute the active members of the new chapter: H. J. Bangert, H. Isenberg, R. S. Wilson, J. V. Davidson, R. L. Flood, F. W. Kroemer, Jr., F. Cohen, J. A. Hepp and D. M. Hubbard. Dr. Carl Leo Mees, president of the institute, and Dr. John White, professor of chemistry, were made honorary members. A banquet followed the installation.

THE launching of the Magnetic Survey yacht *Carnegie* will take place on June 12, 1909, 2:30 P.M., at the Tebo Yacht Basin Company, foot of 23d Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. Miss Dorothea Louise Bauer, daughter of Dr. L. A. Bauer, director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, has been chosen by the executive committee of the Carnegie Institution of Washington to perform the christening ceremony.

IN order to put a stop to the serious damage done by persons uprooting ferns and wild plants growing in hedgerows and on commons, etc., in the county of Surrey, England, the Surrey County Council has made the following by-law: "No person shall uproot or destroy any ferns or other wild plants growing in any road, lane, roadside waste, wayside bank, or hedge, common, or other public place, in such a manner or in such quantities as to damage or disfigure such road, lane, or other place. Provided that this by-law shall not apply to persons collecting specimens in small quantities for private or scientific use. A person offending against this by-law shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MR. W. C. PROCTOR, of Cincinnati, of the class of '83, has offered to give Princeton University \$500,000 for its graduate school on condition that an equal sum be subscribed within a year.

THE legislature of Pennsylvania at its last session appropriated three hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars to the University of Pittsburgh to be expended for new buildings and maintenance.

By the late Dr. F. W. Draper, Harvard University receives an unrestricted bequest which it is believed will amount to \$100,000.

THE Massachusetts legislature has appropriated \$80,000 for the erection of a fireproof building for the departments of zoology and entomology, at the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

THE New York legislature appropriated \$57,000 for the use of the Agricultural School of St. Lawrence University.

THE Tennessee legislature has passed a bill giving 25 per cent. of the state's revenues for education, 7 per cent. being for the university and experiment station.

THE late Mr. James Duncan has bequeathed a portion of his estate, calculated to amount to about \$300,000 for the establishment of a school of industrial art in Dundee, Scotland.

THE new Institute of Physiology at University College, London, will be formally opened on Friday, June 18, by the Hon. R. B. Haldane, secretary of state for war. The funds for the building of the institute were provided by Mr. Ludwig Mond and Dr. Aders Plimmer and by a bequest of the late Mr. Thomas Webb.

DR. SAMUEL AVERY, head of the department of chemistry in the University of Nebraska and acting-president since the resignation of Dr. Andrews, has been elected president of the institution.

DR. ERNEST MERRITT, professor of physics, has been appointed dean of the graduate school of Cornell University.

At the University of Minnesota, Professor John Zeleny has been appointed head of the department of physics to succeed Dean Frederick S. Jones, who has been called to the deanship of Yale College; Assistant Professor Anthony Zeleny has been appointed professor of physics, and Dr. W. F. Holman, of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, instructor in

physics; and a new instructorship not yet filled has been created. Assistant Professor H. A. Erikson returns to the department after a year's absence at Cambridge, England, and Dr. A. F. Kovarik has obtained a leave of absence for study abroad.

DR. H. H. HORNE, professor of philosophy at Dartmouth College, has been appointed professor of the history of education at the New York University, to succeed the late Professor Gordy.

DR. CHARLES T. BURNETT, of Bowdoin College, has declined a call to the chair of psychology at Amherst College.

MR. C. T. BRUES, of Milwaukee Public Museum, has been appointed instructor in economic entomology at Harvard University.

MISS MABEL BISHOP, fellow in zoology in Smith College, has been appointed instructor in biological science in the Woman's College of Baltimore.

DR. J. B. LEATHES, of London, has been appointed professor of chemical pathology in the faculty of medicine of the University of Toronto.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

TO THE PHILOSOPHIC ZOOLOGIST

Whether definite variations are by chance useful, or whether they are purposeful are the contrasting views of modern speculation. The philosophic zoologist of to-day has made his choice. He has chosen *undirected* variations as furnishing the materials for natural selection. It gives him a working hypothesis that calls in no unknown agencies; it accords with what he observes in nature; it promises the largest rewards.

The above paragraph is a quotation from the address of my friend and colleague, Professor T. H. Morgan, delivered in the Darwin course at Columbia University, February 26. It is interesting as showing the absolute divorce between the zoological and paleontological observer, a matter to which I have called renewed attention in my Baltimore address recently published in "Fifty Years of Darwinism."

If the word "undirected" implies fortuity, as I presume it does, it is an interesting future possibility that the theory of the building up