

sorships to associate professorships: Eliot Blackwelder, geology; C. M. Jansky, electrical engineering, and E. G. Hastings, bacteriology. Those who were raised from instructors to assistant professors include George Wagner, zoology; E. R. Jones, soils; C. P. Norgord, agronomy; M. O. Withey, mechanics; W. S. Kinney, structural engineering, and A. G. Christie, steam engineering.

At Princeton University Dr. E. P. Adams, assistant professor of physics, has been elected professor of physics and Dr. L. P. Eisenhart, preceptor in mathematics, professor of mathematics. Among the preceptors elected were: P. H. Fogel in philosophy; J. G. Hun, C. R. MacLunes and Elijah Swift, in mathematics. The following instructors were appointed: E. B. Baxter, in philosophy; B. J. Spence, in physics, and C. M. Dennis, in civil engineering.

In the Johns Hopkins Medical School Dr. Charles D. Snyder, has been appointed associate in physiology. Among the instructors appointed are: Dr. Leonard G. Rowntree, in experimental therapeutics; Dr. Arthur H. Koelker, in physiologic chemistry; Dr. Herbert M. Evans, in anatomy, and Dr. Milton C. Winternitz, in pathology.

DR. JOHN C. SHEDD, of Westminster College, Denver, has been elected professor of physics and head of the department at the University of Pittsburgh. The department will move into the new laboratories now nearing completion. Mr. Will Grant Chambers, for the past five years professor of psychology in the Colorado State Normal School, has been elected to the newly established chair of education in the same institution.

DR. C. H. SHATTUCK, associate professor of botany and forestry at Clemson College, S. C., has recently resigned to accept a professorship in the University of Idaho.

MR. H. P. KEAN, assistant in the University of Illinois, has been elected professor of mathematics in Ripon College.

At the University of Cambridge Mr. H. F. Newall, F.R.S., fellow of Trinity College, has been elected to the recently founded professorship of astrophysics.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

JOINT MEETINGS OF ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: There has been brought to my attention much severe criticism of the fact that at the recent Baltimore meeting Section F held meetings parallel with those of the American Society of Zoologists; and many of these criticisms are in such a form as to suggest that the officers of Section F deliberately planned that conflicting arrangement. Such is not the case. The officers then responsible for Section F were also members of the American Society of Zoologists and therefore were especially anxious to avoid conflicting meetings. For some weeks preceding the meeting, the secretaries of the American Society of Zoologists and Section F carried on correspondence looking towards a joint program, with the exception of the vice-presidential address before Section F. In the last days before publication of programs, it suddenly became evident that the large number of papers submitted made a joint two-day program as planned impossible, and there was no time for considering possible rearrangements of plan.

The problems of conflicting meetings have now been more carefully considered by the sectional committee of Section F; and with the hope of leading to better organized zoological meetings, with grouping of papers into natural subdivisions and perhaps sectional meetings when necessary in order to complete the program of papers in two or three days, the committee has voted that if the American Society of Zoologists goes to Boston next December Section F will propose limiting its meetings to the vice-presidential address and business, and leave to the American Society of Zoologists entire charge of the meetings for the reading of zoological papers. Such a proposition has been transmitted to the secretary of the American Society of Zoologists for reference to the executive committee of that society.

The writer has heard only one line of objection to the general plan of this proposition, namely, that Section F has among its members several hundred who are not eligible to

membership in the American Society of Zoologists. This is true and is one of the strongest reasons for the existence of Section F as an organization independent of the American Society of Zoologists. However, so far as experience at meetings in recent years goes, this large membership of Section F has no important bearing on the question of a consolidated program of papers under the auspices of the American Society of Zoologists. There have probably not been a half dozen papers read before Section F in the past three years by authors who were not also members of the American Society of Zoologists or who could not have obtained an introduction to that society for the reading of their papers. Moreover, the sectional committee of Section F has constitutional authority for rejecting papers not satisfactory in preliminary abstracts; and since the members of that committee are also members of the American Society of Zoologists there is no reason to suppose that an irresponsible member of Section F could get an opportunity to read a paper in a consolidated program with the American Society of Zoologists.

A second objection is that the large audiences composed of members of Section F inhibits discussion and as a result zoological meetings are not so helpful as they were years ago. This is absurd to one who observed the record-breaking run of papers made by the American Society of Zoologists at Baltimore on the days when Section F held its own meetings. It is evident that the American Society of Zoologists has already overgrown in scope, in membership and in productivity of members; and soon must consider some natural subdivision in order to gain the time for the deliberate work which was once so satisfactory.

It is true, as charged by certain members of the American Society of Zoologists, that the majority of papers read before Section F are by the younger group of zoologists. But may not these men just entering the zoological field have some right to the inspiration and criticism derivable from reading papers before a body of older zoologists? Have those who object to the reading of papers by the younger

men forgotten that ten or twenty years ago they too were just emerging from the graduate schools and were eager to present their research work? The need of an opportunity for those not yet eligible to membership in the American Society of Zoologists is alone sufficient justification for regular programs of Section F whenever the American Society of Zoologists does not adopt some such grouping of papers and parallel sectional meetings as will permit the reading of all zoological papers worthy of serious consideration. If the officers of the American Society of Zoologists are willing to make such an arrangement, the present officers of Section F will cooperate fully in the selection of papers offered by members of Section F who are not also members of the American Society of Zoologists, and after that will leave the programs for reading of papers entirely under the auspices of the officers of the American Society of Zoologists. But if such a consolidation is not acceptable to the American Society of Zoologists, the officers of Section F will continue to consider it their duty to arrange otherwise for the reading of worthy papers by men who do not have an opportunity to present results of their research before the American Society of Zoologists.

MAURICE A. BIGELOW,
Secretary of Section F

TEACHERS COLLEGE,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

THE BIRTHPLACES OF LEADING AMERICANS AND THE QUESTION OF HEREDITY

IN SCIENCE, April 9, I challenged the following statement of Mr. W. J. Spillman:

With only 29 per cent. of our population actually living on the farm, with miserably poor school facilities as compared with our city population, this 29 per cent. furnishes about 70 per cent. of the leaders in every phase of activity in this country.

In SCIENCE, May 7, Mr. Spillman corrects his 29 per cent. to about 36 per cent. He admits that he has "no way of ascertaining how many of the men who are distinctly leaders in this country were actually brought up