coast, being followed, further west, by those of Talasea and Bariai, in which the influence of New Guinea culture is much more manifest. Owing to the exposure of the north coast to the northwest monsoon during the early months of the year, it was decided to begin serious work on the south coast, which was followed from east to west, a large number of coast villages being visited, and some communication opened with the very primitive dwellers in the back country. The observations permit the definition of several distinct culture regions on this coast. Artificial deformation of the skull was found to be practised, especially between Montague Harbor and Cape Pedder. The voyage extended to the New Guinea coast (where a key was found to various facts in the ethnology of western New Britain), and a visit was paid to Sir George Rooke or Umbai Island. Returning, a landing was effected at the mouth of the Pulie River, whence a trade route leads across to the north coast, and this was utilized for the crossing of the island by Dr. Fülleborn and two of his European companions, who afterwards returned by the same route. The crossing occupied seven days, and the country was found to be covered with a uniform thin forest, broken only by the extensive plantations of the natives. The health of several members of the expedition has unfortunately suffered a good deal.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Yale University has received from Mr. William D. Sloane and Mr. Henry T. Sloane the sum of $475,000 to build, equip and endow a physical laboratory. This laboratory, it is understood, will replace the present Sloane Physical Laboratory, and will be used by the academic, the scientific and the graduate departments. Yale University has also received $25,000 from Mr. Alfred G. Vanderbilt for general endowment, and $15,000 from Mr. G. H. Meyers for the endowment of the Forest School, of which he is an alumnus.

Columbia University has received gifts amounting to about $236,000, of which $112,500 is from Mr. W. H. Charpentier, to be added to the J. S. Charpentier fund, and $100,000 is given anonymously toward the cost of Kent Hall.

The Pratt Institute of Brooklyn has received the sum of $1,750,000 from Mr. Charles M. Pratt, son of the founder and now its president, and from his five brothers and his sister, Mrs. E. B. Dane.

Dr. D. K. Pearsons has offered to give $100,000 to Berea College, provided that the sum of $400,000 is otherwise subscribed.

Mr. N. B. Duke has made a further gift of $50,000 to Trinity College at Durham, N. C.

It is reported that the Free University of Brussels has received an anonymous gift of 4,000,000 francs for its scientific departments.

Dr. George E. Fisher, professor of mathematics in the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed dean of the college.

At the University of Nebraska, Professor Robert H. Wolcott has been made professor of zoology and acting dean of the College of Medicine as successor of Henry B. Ward, who has gone to the University of Illinois.

Professor Gustave F. Wittig, of the electrical engineering department of the University of Maine, has resigned to become head of the electrical engineering department of the University of Alabama.

Dr. Byron B. Brackett has been appointed to the chair of electrical engineering at the South Dakota State College. He has held the chair of electrical engineering at the Clarkson School of Technology since 1903.

At Harvard University, Dr. Edwin Katzenellenbogen has been appointed lecturer in abnormal psychology, W. J. Risley, A.M., instructor in mathematics, and A. V. Kidder, A.B., Austin teaching fellow in anthropology.

Dr. H. B. Kribs has been promoted to an instructorship of zoology at the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. H. M. Jacobs to a similar position in the place of Philip P. Calvert, who is on leave of absence. In the same department Dr. Harold Colton has been appointed assistant.

The following appointments have been made in the chemical department of the

North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, for the year 1909–10: Dr. L. F. Williams promoted from an instructorship to an assistant professorship; Burton J. Ray, A.B. (Wake Forest, Ph.D., Cornell), instructor in organic chemistry and assistant chemist in the Experiment Station; Frank W. Sherwood, B.S. (North Carolina A. & M.), assistant chemist in the Experiment Station.

REGINALD E. HORE, of Toronto, formerly instructor in the University of Michigan and in Queens University, has been appointed instructor in petrography in the Michigan College of Mines, Houghton.

DR. E. B. HUTCHINS, Ph.D. (Wisconsin), has resigned the professorship of chemistry at Carroll College to accept the position of manager of a manufacturing establishment in Fond du Lac, Wis. S. B. Hopkins, Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins), has been elected to the position at Carroll College.

DR. A. H. GIBSON has been elected professor of engineering at University College, Dundee, to succeed Professor Fidler, who has resigned.

PROFESSOR H. KOSSEL, director of the hygienic institute at Giessen, has received a call to Heidelberg. His brother, Dr. A. Kossel, is professor of physiology at Heidelberg.

DR. F. HARTMANN, of the Astrophysical Observatory at Pottsdam, has been appointed professor of astronomy at Göttingen and director of the observatory.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

NATURE STUDY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In the advertisement of a new book on "Nature Study" I find the following statement:

> There is a great deal of talk about nature study by persons who have only the haziest idea of what they mean by it.

With this I am in cordial agreement. Why the term "nature study" should be appropriated as applying to that partial range of the phenomena of the physical universe which is the particular province of the biologist I have never been able to see. I believe that the word φύσις is the equivalent of the Latin *natura,* for which the English is *nature.* The derivation of the word physics is apparent. The old term "natural philosophy" is an excellent one, sanctioned by the best use from Newton to Thomson and Tait, and serving as a contrast to "natural history" or the purely descriptive part of that science of nature which does without philosophy. The term physics is shorter and belongs to other languages than English, and it seems to me that if the biologists desire a correspondingly convenient term it is for them to invent one, and not to preempt the whole of nature, which is greater than any part.

ARTHUR GORDON WEBSTER

NEON AND ELECTRIC WAVES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Professor J. Norman Collie, F.R.S., recently discovered that when perfectly pure neon is enclosed in a glass tube with a globule of mercury and shaken, it glows with a bright orange-red color, and when the globule rolls it appears to be followed by a flame. This phenomenon takes place at ordinary pressure.

Sir William Ramsay has found that neon is the best conducting of the gases and that it readily becomes luminous under the influence of electric waves. Professor J. A. Fleming, F.R.S., uses a neon tube as a detector for the wave-length of Hertzian waves in his apparatus for measuring them.

During a recent visit to Sir William Ramsay I had the pleasure of seeing the astonishing quantity of over 500 c.c. of pure neon which he had obtained from about 120 tons of air. While there, Professor Collie very kindly presented to me a tube of neon, under about one half an atmosphere pressure, containing a globule of mercury which showed the "Collie effect" very strikingly.

Returning from Liverpool, July 2, on the steamer *Baltic,* I was given opportunity during the voyage, by Mr. Bates, the chief operator of the wireless, to try the neon tube as an instrument for the visual reading of the wireless message. We experimented with it during two nights and found that the neon glowed beautifully in response to the waves sent out,