committee are Professor Pavy, of London, M. Blondel, of Paris, as president and vice-president; the latter is also secretary of the International Medical Press Association, Dr. Maragliano, of Genoa, Dr. Müller, or Budapest, and Dr. Waldeyer, of Berlin.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE trustees of Princeton University have accepted the gift of $500,000 of Mr. W. C. Proctor, of Cincinnati, made on condition that an equal sum be obtained for the graduate school by May 1, 1910, and that the school be not situated where the house of the president now stands.

HAVERFORD COLLEGE has received $100,000 to establish a fund for pensioning its professors.

THE General Education Board has made a conditional appropriation of $125,000 to Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, O.

MRS. CHARLES E. PERKINS, of Burlington, Ia., has given $30,000 to Harvard University, to establish scholarships for students from Iowa.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has received gifts amounting to $6,600, to be used for the immediate benefit of freshmen in Harvard College, under the direction of the assistant dean.

AN additional sum of about $40,000 has been collected in the Canton district for the endowment of Hong Kong University.

THE laboratories of The Rice Institute, at Houston, Texas, are being planned with the assistance of Professor J. S. Ames, of Baltimore; Professor E. G. Conklin, of Princeton; Professor T. W. Richards, of Cambridge, and Professor S. W. Stratton, of Washington.

WHEN the former College of Medicine of the University of Southern California became the Los Angeles Medical Department of the University of California, the former university was left without a medical department. Recently, however, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Los Angeles was taken over and made an integral part of the University of Southern California.

DR. G. B. LONGSTAFF, of New College, Oxford, has presented £2,400 as an additional endowment for the Hope department of zoology.

MR. F. T. HAVARD has been appointed assistant professor of mining and metallurgy at the University of Wisconsin. Mr. Havard is a well known metallurgical engineer, and a frequent contributor to the technical press. He is a graduate of the Royal School of Mines, Freiberg, and has had his metallurgical experience in Germany, Chile, Montana and elsewhere.

THE University of Pittsburgh has appointed Frederick L. Bishop, '98, formerly professor of physics at the Bradley Polytechnic Institute of Peoria, Ill., head of the department of physics.

DR. G. A. VAN RYNBERK, associate professor of physiology at Rome, has been appointed professor of physiology at Amsterdam.

MR. WALTER BRUDENELL GILL, formerly scholar of Christ Church, Oxford, has been elected to a fellowship at Merton College to undertake research work in physics and to act as a demonstrator.

DR. KARL MARBE, of Frankfort, has been appointed professor of philosophy at Würzburg.

DR. K. CORRENS, of Leipzig, has been appointed professor of botany at Münster.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF GENERA WITHOUT SPECIES, ETC.

As an outcome of the recent discussion in SCIENCE of the "Genera without Species" question, the following suggestions are offered for the consideration of zoologists and will be transmitted to the International Zoological Congress Committee on Nomenclature. They are the result of recent correspondence between Professor T. D. A. Cockerell and the writer, and have been formulated, and are here presented, by his suggestion and on lines proposed by him, with modifications that meet

his approval. They relate not only to speciesless genera, but to genera based on a species, or on a group of congeneric species, designated only by a vernacular name, unaccompanied by a diagnosis, or by an inadequate one.

1. A generic name proposed without mention of any described species is invalid unless it is accompanied by a diagnosis of such a character as to indicate that it is based on a previously known species, or group of species, that can be unequivocally identified as the basis of the diagnosis. Examples: *Gavia* J. R. Forster (1788), based exclusively on the loons, a small group of strictly congeneric species; *Fregata* and *Picoides* Lacépède (1799), based on single species obviously indicated by the diagnosis.

2. A generic name, proposed with or without a diagnosis, may be accepted if a genotype is designated merely by a vernacular name of unequivocal significance. Examples: *Plautus* Brünnich (1771), based on an unmistakable diagnosis of the great auk with the addition of the Danish vernacular name of the species; *Regulus* Cuvier (1800), proposed, without diagnosis, for the kinglets ("les roitelets" = *Motacilla regulus* Linn., as shown by Cuvier's previous (1798) use of these names).

In cases like the one last mentioned, a vernacular name is to be accepted as a genotype only when the author thus employing it has used the vernacular name accompanied by the equivalent systematic name in a previously published work, thus defining it beyond question. A vernacular name is also (and not otherwise) available as a genotype when accompanied by a reference to a work or author where it has been defined.

It is believed that these recommendations can be accepted without risk of serious complications. The first has long been a part of the A. O. U. Code; the second is not formally adopted as a rule, but is implied in the "remarks" under Canon XXXII. (p. lxi) of the Revised A. O. U. Code, which relates to *nomina nuda*. The following has a direct bearing upon this proposition:

The names of genera and subgenera given without diagnosis or any other indication of a type than a vernacular name without a citation of its previous use, as in Cuvier's "Tableau Général des Classes des Animaux," in the first volume of his "Leçons d'Anatomie Comparée" (and in other similar cases), are tenable if the vernacular name is one that has been used and defined by a then current systematic name by the same author in a previous work; the vernacular name in such cases defines the type.

J. A. ALLEN
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

STABLE NOMENCLATURE PRACTICALLY UNATTAINABLE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have read with much interest Mr. Jonathan Dwight's article in a recent number of SCIENCE on "The Burden of Nomenclature." While I am in sympathy with this article, and with the general tendency of modern systematic biologists to formulate rules and codes to govern the application of generic and specific names, I wish to emphasize the point that no matter how perfect such a code may be we can not hope that stability will be the immediate result. A very important factor in the application of names is the study of the organisms to which the names are applied. The perfect code would indicate the application of the names when the study of a group of organisms had been completed. When the study of all organisms has been completed we may hope for a more or less stable nomenclature. Until that time we must accept as inevitable a certain amount of change as groups are critically studied. It is true that much of the change during the present era is due to the use of different codes, to misinterpretation of rules and to what some are pleased to call the juggling of names, that is, an attempt to fix names without carefully studying the group concerned. But aside from this there is what we must accept as legitimate and inevitable change due to increased knowledge of the organisms and their nomenclatorial history. It is not necessarily an adverse criticism of a code that different editions of a list show changes in nomenclature. In my own work I have found that absolute stability of nomenclature is practically unattainable. Starting with the traditional application of names in a given group, investigation may show that many of these names have been misapplied. Two authors studying the same group at different times may apply the names in different