

agriculture your regulated and cultivated waters, both inland and marine, may prove to be more productive even than the great wheat lands of Manitoba.

Inland waters may be put to many uses: sometimes they are utilized as sewage outlets for great cities, sometimes they are converted into commercial highways, or they may become restricted because of the reclamation of fertile bottom-lands. All these may be good and necessary developments, or any one of them may be obviously best under the circumstances; but, in promoting any such schemes, due regard should always be paid to the importance and promise of natural waters as a perpetual source of cheap and healthful food for the people of the country.

W. A. HERDMAN

REFORM IN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

CONSIDERABLE agitation has been going on for several years in New South Wales for a reform in the constitution and policy of the University of Sydney, and this unrest has at last taken the definite shape of a bill before the legislature of the state. The University of Sydney, founded in the early fifties, can boast of as antiquated a system of government as if it had been in operation for five hundred years. It is governed by a senate, a body corporate consisting of sixteen members who are elected and have a life tenure of office. It pursues a conservative and exclusive policy, making no allowances for the difference between British and Australian conditions. Where there are many colleges, as in America, there is little to be apprehended from the oligarchical government of a few; but where there is but one, as in New South Wales, with a practical monopoly of higher education, the absence of any democratic or social adaptation is severely felt. Sydney University does not employ Australian professors and does not teach Australian subjects beyond necessity. The minor lecturers are Australians who have won the highest honors at home and abroad,

but they are not allowed to aspire to the title and office of a professor. A British committee that had been requested to make nominations for a vacant chair recently nominated an Australian, whose name was rejected by the senate in favor of the man named by the committee as its second choice. The second nominee declined in order to show his disapproval of the proceeding, and a third choice became necessary. Again, Australian literature and history offer an attractive harvest, but they are not taught by the University of Sydney; Australian economics fares no better, and the local Australian spirit is not understood.

The amending bill is extremely moderate in its provisions for reform, and by no means satisfies the radical or national party, which in Australia is for practical purposes the labor party. It provides that the government's annual appropriation towards the revenues of Sydney University shall be increased from £10,000 to £20,000; that chairs of agriculture and veterinary science shall be established, the latter chair having been already filled by arrangement between the government and the university; that the fees of students shall be reduced; that the tenure of office of members of the senate shall be limited to eight years, four to retire at the first election and four more every second year until the whole constitution of the body is changed; and finally that the electors shall vote by letter, and that every graduate of the institution over the age of twenty-one years shall be entitled to vote.

It is probable that the present amending bill is but a step in the direction of state absorption of the university. Whatever may be best elsewhere, this is what is needed in Australia. At the same time, it is not to be forgotten that Sydney University has always maintained a high standard of scholarship and efficiency within its aims; that the average salary of its professors is over a thousand pounds a year, representing a higher rate of payment than that of the best of American universities; that in 1907 it had 1,165 matriculated students; that its staff consisted in that year of 15 professors and 68 lecturers, of whom

a number of the lecturers are paid on a level with adjunct professors in America; and that the year's expenditure was £50,298, of which sum £13,750 was granted by the government of the state. But for all that, the University of Sydney is not as accessible, not as democratic, not as national as a seat of higher education should be in the youngest of the world's great countries.

PERCIVAL R. COLE

TEACHERS COLLEGE,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

T. NISHIKAWA, 1874-1909

WE regret to record the death of Dr. Tokichi Nishikawa, of Tokyo, one of the most promising of the younger generation of Japanese zoologists. He had been for a number of years an associate of Dr. Kishinouyé in the Imperial Fisheries Bureau in Tokyo, and he was later a special investigator of pearls. In his studies of the latter he traveled extensively and was at one time commissioned by the Japanese government to report upon the great pearl fisheries of the South Seas. He is distinguished as the discoverer of a process by which the pearl oyster may be caused to secrete spherical pearls. Before this only hemispherical pearls had been produced, in spite of centuries of experimentation, especially in the orient. Dr. Nishikawa devoted nearly ten years to his studies on producing pearls, and achieved success only in the days of his final illness. In his memory, and in token of the importance of his discovery, a number of his living pearl oysters were brought to the University of Tokyo on the occasion of the commencement exercises: they were opened in the presence of the emperor, and Professor Iijima demonstrated that their mantles had secreted spherical pearls.

The publications of Dr. Nishikawa include important contributions to our knowledge of Japanese fishes, structural, systematic, embryological. Especially to be recalled is his pioneer paper on the development of the remarkable frilled shark, *Chlamydoselachus anguineus*.

BASHFORD DEAN

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGISTS

THE annual meeting of the Eastern Branch of the American Society of Zoologists will be held at Boston, Massachusetts, on December 28, 29 and 30, 1909.

Members of the society are urged to send the titles of their papers to the secretary not later than December 1, so that a preliminary program may be issued about December 10. It will be necessary to place the papers received after that date at the end of the list.

Nominations for membership, accompanied by full statements of the qualifications of the candidates, must be in the hands of the secretary before December 1, in order that the list may be submitted to the executive committee of each branch before the meeting.

LORANDE LOSS WOODRUFF,
Secretary

YALE UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Dr. Ira Remsen, president of Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Charles R. Van Hise, of the University of Wisconsin, were elected trustees to fill vacancies caused by the resignations of Dr. Charles W. Eliot, of Harvard University, and Dr. E. H. Hughes, of De Pauw University. Provost Charles E. Harrison, of the University of Pennsylvania, was elected chairman of the board to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Dr. Eliot.

PROFESSOR FRANZ WEIDENREICH, of Strassburg, has accepted the invitation of the Association of American Anatomists to participate in the meeting during convocation of this year, and to deliver an address on the development, morphology and clinical relations of the blood. His own researches in this field have been of the highest importance, and have done more to clear up the subject and to free it from the intricate confusion created by purely clinical writers than any other work of recent years. The address will be followed by a demonstration of preparations, many of which are the results of new methods