

THE Chemists' Club of New York has inaugurated a plan for bringing together the professors of chemistry of the various universities with their former students at the smokers of the club. Saturday evening, November 27, was designated as Harvard Night, to which the professors of that university and the members of the New York Harvard Club were invited as guests. Professors Richards, Torrey and Baxter outlined the lines of investigation being conducted in their respective departments. It is hoped that in future meetings the chemists of New York will have opportunities for coming into contact with the work of the various other colleges in a similar fashion. The finance committee was able to announce subscriptions amounting to upwards of \$200,000 to the Chemists' Building Company.

THE ninth annual meeting of the American Philosophical Association will be held at Yale University, New Haven, Conn., on December 27, 28 and 29. The subject selected for discussion is: The problem of time in its relation to present tendencies in philosophy. Stop-over at New Haven will be allowed to persons holding tickets reading *via* that point to Boston to attend the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Psychological Association. Tickets must be deposited at station office at New Haven not later than December 29, and must be withdrawn from deposit in time to reach Boston not later than December 30.

THE Sullivant Moss Society will meet in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Boston on Thursday, December 30, at 2.30 p.m. in the hall of the Boston Natural History Society, Berkeley Street. An informal meeting will be held during the morning hours to view exhibits and make acquaintance. The program meeting in the afternoon is open to all and will be followed by a general discussion. For further particulars address Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, 78 Orange Street, Brooklyn, New York, in whose care all manuscripts, etc., should be sent. Titles and abstracts of papers

should be sent in at once to secure place on the program.

THE *Standard* for November 22, says *Nature*, contains a full list of the House of Lords, classified according to their qualifications. There are only two names—those of Baron Rayleigh and Baron Lister—under the heading "Scientists," while "Educationists" are only represented by Baron Ashcombe, member of council of Selwyn College; Baron Killanin, member of senate of Royal University of Ireland, and the Earl of Stamford, formerly professor of classics and philosophy at Codrington College, Barbados. There are thirty-five railway directors, thirty-five bankers and thirty-nine so-called "captains of industry" on the list, and a column and a half under "Military and Naval Services."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Duke family have made a further gift of \$500,000 to Trinity College, Durham, N. C., for the establishment of a medical department.

MRS. HELEN HARTLEY JENKINS has given a considerable sum to endow a fund at Teachers College, Columbia University, providing for a department to instruct trained nurses, who are expected to give instruction on the care of the sick, sanitation, etc.

ACCORDING to figures available in the office of the auditor, the University of Chicago holds investments representing permanent endowment that aggregate \$14,870,903.01. In addition, its buildings and grounds devoted entirely to university use represent \$8,917,708.10; equipment, scientific apparatus, furniture, etc., being put at \$1,916,314.49 additional. These figures do not include the funds destined for the erection of the Harper Memorial Library, estimated in round figures to cost \$900,000, on which work will probably begin next year, nor the cost of the classical building, the construction of which is in contemplation, and on which about \$250,000 will be expended.

THE University of Brussels has received gifts amounting to \$1,300,000.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR THOMAS PURDIE has offered to the University of St. Andrews the

sum of £2,000 to provide the salary of an assistant in the Purdie Chemical Research Laboratory.

THE Special Board for Moral Science of Cambridge University calls the attention of the senate in a report to the need of more adequate accommodation for the laboratory of experimental psychology. At Oxford an excellent laboratory devoted to experimental psychology has recently been erected. It is estimated that a building adequate for the present needs of the department might be erected at a cost of £3,000, and to this must be added £1,000 for fittings. Towards this amount nearly £3,700 has been already promised or paid, but this includes an offer of £3,000 made on condition that the building is begun without delay.

AT Cornell University, the graduate department, hitherto under the jurisdiction of the university faculty, has been reorganized as a separate college under the title of the Graduate School. A research professorship has been conferred upon Professor Titchener, who becomes Sage professor of psychology in the Graduate School.

Among recent appointments at the Iowa State College are the following: W. W. Dimock, B.Agr., D.V.M. (Cornell), associate professor of veterinary medicine; W. M. Barr, B.S. (Iowa, '02), Ph.D. (Pennsylvania, '08), associate professor of metallurgy; Archibald Leitch, B.S.A. (Ont. Agr. Col., '05), assistant professor of animal husbandry; W. H. Pew, B.S.A. (Iowa State, '07), assistant professor of animal husbandry; Ira G. McBeth, B.S.A. (Ohio, '07), M.A. ('08), assistant professor of soil bacteriology; H. W. Gray, B.C.E. (Iowa State, '06), assistant professor of civil engineering; H. E. Ewing, A.B. (Illinois, '06), M.A. ('08), assistant professor of zoology.

DR. OSCAR KLOTZ, assistant in pathology at McGill University, Montreal, has been appointed professor of pathology in the University of Pittsburgh.

HAMDEN HILL, A.B., has been appointed instructor in chemistry in the University of North Carolina.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In order that American scientists may know something more of "Ido" than is given in Professor Jespersen's article in SCIENCE of November 12, I quote below a statement of Professor Dr. Förster, who was a member of the International Language Committee referred to by Professor Jespersen, and honorary president of it. This statement is taken from *Germana Esperantisto*, for December, 1908, pp. 138-9. Professor Förster, who was formerly director of the Berlin Observatory, says:

I was a member of the international committee whose duty it was to examine critically the most important hitherto existing systems of international language. The past autumn [*i. e.*, in 1907] this committee recognized Esperanto as the most satisfactory hitherto existing auxiliary language. At the same time, the committee, without an intention of disturbing the essential genius of the language, recommended some reforms, by means of which it was thought to attain a more rapid and general spread of Esperanto.

But the committee, or rather the commission elected by it, failed to secure the absolutely necessary consent of the officials of the already extensive Esperanto organization to their reforms, which the whole body of Esperantists, with very few exceptions, did not consider as improvements.

But instead of consenting that the effort be made to introduce the reforms gradually, in consideration of the natural resistance of such an enthusiastic movement, the commission, going beyond the task given it by the committee, and against the desire of eminent members of the committee, assumed towards the officials of the Esperanto movement a critical air of superiority and attempted themselves to spread a reformed, and even in its external aspect essentially changed language, which they variously called "Ido," "Ilo," "Reform-Esperanto," "Esperanto-simplified," etc., although the Esperantists did not consent to the use of the name Esperanto and although the additions "reform" and "simplified" contradicted the conviction of nearly all Esperantists.

This procedure caused me not only to relinquish the honorary presidency, but also to resign from the committee, for in such proceedings there is lacking, in my opinion, any degree of social wis-