

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-

dom, and I find them suitable only for creating confusion, and of putting in danger the progress attained after decades of hard work.

Professor Förster was not the only member of the committee who resigned from it in disgust at the action of the subcommittee. In the *Germana Esperantisto*, No. 8, 1909, Professor Dr. Ad. Schmidt, one of those members who left the committee, speaks very pointedly of the misrepresentations in an article published by Dr. Pfaundler, one of the men whose names were mentioned by Professor Jespersen. Couterat, also mentioned by Jespersen, is editor of the official organ of the "Idists." In a recent number of this journal he prints statements concerning the position gained by Esperanto at the Psychological Congress last summer that, to say the least, are misleading, though in a subsequent number he publishes a very lame retraction.

Since the disruption of the International Language Committee, occasioned by the belief on the part of conservative members that the subcommittee were putting in jeopardy the whole question of an international language, a faction of that committee have continued the propaganda for Ido, a language invented, according to Dr. Schmidt, by the Marquis de Beaufront, one of the most ardent of Esperantists, and a most powerful opponent of changes in Esperanto. Beaufront himself had abandoned his own language because he considered Esperanto superior to it, and, on account of his staunch advocacy of the latter, had been commissioned as the personal representative of Dr. Zamenhof before the language committee. In addition to the faction referred to there are scattered here and there in Europe and America a few opponents of Esperanto who call themselves Idists, Ildists, etc. These gentlemen are not at all agreed as to the structure of their language. Their official organ is devoted, not so much to the propagation of a particular form of international language, as to a learned (?) discussion of what the characteristics of an international language should be, and to an attempt to discredit Esperanto. It is not uncommon for the contributors to this magazine to give, in connection with their articles, a synopsis of the

grammatical forms with which at the time they are experimenting. Even the Idists are now beginning to perceive the folly of their course, and are beginning to clamor for a "period of stability," the one thing they have fought most strenuously in Esperanto, and the absolutely essential element of success. Esperantists realize that to open the gate to "improvements" can only end in a wrangle that means certain death to the movement for an international language, which at present has such brilliant prospects.

The writer well remembers when he began the study of German, how many things he found in it that he could have improved. The same was true of French. It is not strange, therefore, that beginners should have a strong desire to "improve" Esperanto. But after two and a half years study of Esperanto, the writer has come very fully to the conviction that the very points in which he desired to see the language changed are the best features of it. After having acquired the ability to read Esperanto practically as freely as English, and the ability to speak it with a fair degree of freedom, the writer is of opinion that, without any changes whatever, Esperanto will make a satisfactory international language. Professor Jespersen refutes his own statement that Esperanto can not be printed in any printing office, by showing in the latter part of his article that this can be done. Since more consonant sounds are needed than there are letters, Dr. Zamenhof chose two ways of representing certain sounds, one with supersigned letters, the other with combinations of letters. Either may be used. Telegrams are sent daily in Esperanto, Professor Jespersen's statement to the contrary notwithstanding. His statement (in Esperanto) that this language lacks many roots is trivial. If he knows Esperanto he knows that in the laws governing the development of the language *any root whatever* can be added by *any Esperantist* whenever needed, the only requirement being that the root shall be adequately defined. If, then, the new root is taken up by writers of repute, it is in due time given formal approval by a committee having full authority. Eight hundred and

seventy new roots were thus approved last year. Others will be added as needed.

In Washington city, during the past week, we have had the opportunity of hearing Esperanto spoken by Professor Arnold Christen, an adept in the language. I have yet to find any one who has heard him speak in Esperanto who does not say with enthusiasm that it is the most beautiful spoken language he has ever heard. Next summer the international scientific association will meet in Washington, and all its deliberations will be conducted in Esperanto. Any one who doubts the sufficiency of the language would do well to attend the meetings of this association.

W. J. SPILLMAN

#### THE ADVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

I HAVE read with interest Professor Jespersen's article on "International Language" in SCIENCE for November 13. Professor Jespersen's name and his rank as exchange professor at Columbia University, together with his report on the decision of the International Scientific Committee, may, among many who have not investigated the subject, win credence to the possibility of the advance of the cause of international speech resulting from adopting Ido in place of the more familiar Esperanto.

Inasmuch as I am one of those who helped to elect the International Scientific Committee, which, as Professor Jespersen mentions, announced that Esperanto "might serve as a basis for the international language provided it were thoroughly modified and improved on certain specifically indicated points," I feel that I must decline any responsibility for the actions of that body. I especially deprecate the committee's arrogating to itself the authority to construct and advance a new language system. Aside, however, from the question of the origin of Ido, as scientists should generally be sufficiently broad-minded to accept a thoroughly good thing, no matter what its origin, I wish to call attention to some facts of which we should take note in considering the question of an international language.

Esperanto is not a hypothetical system for

international communication, but is a language in actual use, possessing not merely grammars, readers and dictionaries, but a wealth of literature both general and technical in character. It has propaganda journals published in almost every civilized country on the globe, and also a large number of magazines devoted to special subjects, such as medicine, literature, photography, etc.—over ninety periodicals in all. At the present time the most important journal to the scientist is the *Internacia Sciencia Revuo* published at Geneva, Switzerland, under the patronage of Dr. Zamenhof, the French Astronomical Society, the French Physical Society and the International Society of Electricity, and the fifth volume, completed in 1908, bears the names of such men as Adelskold, Appell, D'Arsonval, Baudoin De Courtenay, Becquerel, Berthelot, Prince Roland Bonaparte, Bouchard, Deslandres, Flournot, Förster, Haller, William James, Murlon, Henri Poincaré, General Sebert and J. J. Thompson. It is worthy of note also that technical Esperanto vocabularies for each science are being compiled by specialists from many nations.

In Europe there are Esperanto hotels and Esperanto consulates, and in both Europe and America and even in far-away Japan there are Esperantists in every city of large size and in innumerable small towns. Many business firms in London and Paris as well as in this country are known to the writer as using Esperanto for correspondence and advertising, and it is to be presumed that these represent a very small proportion of the commercial firms having found it advantageous to use this language. It might be added that linotype machines can be equipped with the additional characters for writing Esperanto at a cost of \$1.50, and a typewriter can be equipped with the extra characters for less than \$1.00; in fact, some of the standard typewriters are made with Esperanto characters without extra charge. Surely it should be as easy also to telegraph in Esperanto with its six supersigned letters as it is to telegraph in French with its acute and