THE Experiment Station *Record* states that the legislature has increased the rate of taxation for the support of the University of California from two to three cents for each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation. This is expected to provide an income for the current year of about $600,000. Appropriations were also made aggregating $130,000 for additional buildings and equipment at the University Farm at Davis, and $88,500 for its maintenance during the ensuing biennium; $20,000 for farmers' institutes; $15,000 for viticultural investigations; $12,000 for cereal investigations, and about $40,000 for the equipment and maintenance of the Southern California Pathological Laboratory.

MRS. PHŒBE HEARST has undertaken to build an anthropological museum for the University of California to cost about $500,000.

TULANE UNIVERSITY will receive $100,000 by will of Isidore Newman, of New Orleans.

THE old block of six tenements at the north end of the Sheffield Scientific School grounds, held for many years at a prohibitory price, has been bought for less than $35,000. It will now be torn down and the chemical laboratory extended over part of the site.

IN order to secure closer cooperation between the regents and the faculties of the University of Minnesota, the board of regents has passed the following resolution:

Resolved, that the several deans of the university be requested to report to the board of regents at their next meeting some plan by which matters concerning the general interests of the university may be taken up and considered by some representative body of those directing the work of the university and the board of regents in closer relation than heretofore.

THE establishment of an agricultural college at Mayaguez, Porto Rico, has been authorized by the territorial legislature. I. W. Hart, of the School of Agriculture, São Paulo, Brazil, has been elected president.

MR. F. A. WOODS, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been elected dean of the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

"OFFICIAL" LIST OF ZOOLOGICAL NAMES—AN OPEN LETTER TO PROFESSIONAL ZOOLOGISTS

A NUMBER of zoologists have expressed the opinion that a list of the most common zoological names should be prepared and that the International Congress of Zoology should accept this list in the future as free from any operation of the law of priority. Other zoologists view this proposition as theoretically and practically open to very serious objections. In the hope of meeting the wishes of the representatives of both sides of this question I take the liberty of proposing an alternative plan, namely, that a list be made of the most commonly used zoological names, that these names be subjected to rigid study under the present international code, and that the international congress adopt this list as "official," with the provision that no change in any of the names in the list be accepted unless the reason for such change is first submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for careful study and unless said commission decides that the change is justified and necessary.

If the zoologists of the world will cooperate with me in this matter, I will endeavor to report to the International Commission at the Gratz meeting in 1910 a list of the kind proposed. It does not seem advisable to make this official list too large at first, but if the plan is found to be feasible, additional names could be placed on the list year after year, and eventually we would have a catalogue of all of the most common and most important names in zoology.

I invite the zoologists of the world to cooperate with me in this experiment on the following plan: Let any person interested in zoology send to me within the next three months a list of 100 zoological names which he considers the most important, and the most generally used. Let every man who is familiar with nomenclatural usages work out the status, under the international code, of 10 of the 100 names which he submits, giving the

exact spelling, the author, and the date and place of publication, with the statement that he considers the 10 names in question as the correct names of the animals involved.

I will agree to compile all the names sent in, to tabulate the votes on the different names (in respect to their importance and frequency), and if possible to verify the references and the nomenclatural status of the names in question. I will further agree to submit a list of say 100 to 300 such names to the International Commission on Nomenclature and to recommend that the commission report upon the list to the international congress.

All communications on this subject should be addressed to me as follows:

Dr. Ch. Wardell Stiles, secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, Hygienic Laboratory, 25th and E Streets, Washington, D. C.

Ch. Wardell Stiles

GLACIAL CLAYS OF THE MAINE COAST

For a number of years these clays have been greatly neglected by geologists and zoologists. Mr. Frederick G. Clapp, in his recent paper,[1] has summarized and added to the work on this region.

Mr. Clapp gives a list of the Pleistocene fossils found in the clays. To this list should be added the following species of ophiuroids, which I found in August, 1909: two specimens of *Ophiura sarsii* Ltk., and one of *Ophiura nodosa* Ltk. These three specimens were found in close proximity in clay about 110 feet above sea level, by aneroid, and the location was at the Rockland Lime Company's deepest quarry, about two miles west of Crockett Point, in Rockland Harbor. This horizon is in the "Upper Clay" of Mr. Clapp's provisional division of these clays. I am indebted to Dr. Hubert L. Clark, for the determination of the species.

Robert W. Sayles

Harvard University

[1] "Complexity of the Glacial Period in Northeastern New England," *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America*, Vol. 18, pp. 505–556, 1908.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Natural History of Igneous Rocks. By Alfred Harker, M.A., F.R.S., Lecturer in Petrology in the University of Cambridge. New York, The Macmillan Company. 1909. Pp. 383, with 112 diagrams and 2 plates.

This volume by Mr. Harker, which presents the substance of a course of lectures delivered at the University of Cambridge, is not a textbook of petrography but treats in a general way of igneous action and igneous rocks in their relation to the structure of the earth's crust, and of the constitution of igneous magmas considered as complex solutions. In the latter portion of the work an exposition is given of numerous and often rather recondite researches into the physico-chemical relations of natural magmas and artificial slags which have been carried out in recent years by Vogt and others.

With respect to the question of the ultimate source of igneous action the author adopts an attitude which is frankly agnostic.

> The nebular hypothesis in Laplace's form, if not discredited, has at least been shown to involve great difficulties to which no answer is yet forthcoming; the meteoric hypothesis, resting from the first on a more precarious basis, is involved practically in the same damaging criticism; and the planetesimal theory has as yet scarcely emerged from the tentative stage.

After considering the relation of igneous action to crustal movements and pointing out that while there has been a rough periodicity in times of activity and repose, there is nothing to support the opinion that there has been a secular waning of igneous action, the geographical distribution of the younger igneous rocks and the question of cycles of igneous activity are discussed. It is shown that the differences in composition of the lavas emitted from neighboring vents, as well as the very unequal heights to which such lavas rise, prove that they can not draw directly from a common source. Each volcanic center must possess its own proper reservoir of lava, but we