

THE New York Botanical Garden has arranged spring lectures to be delivered in the lecture hall of the museum building of the garden, Bronx Park, on Saturday afternoons, at four o'clock, as follows:

April 30—"Spring Flowers," Dr. N. L. Britton.

May 7—"Collecting in Southern Mexico," Dr. W. A. Merrill.

May 14—"The Origin and Formation of Coal," Dr. Arthur Hollick.

May 21—"Water Lilies," Mr. George V. Nash.

May 28—"An Expedition to the Panama Canal Zone," Dr. M. A. Howe.

June 4—"Summer Flowers," Dr. N. L. Britton.

June 11—"The Rose and its History," Mr. George V. Nash.

June 18—"The Native Trees of the Hudson Valley," Mr. Norman Taylor.

June 25—"The Extinct Flora of New York City and Vicinity," Dr. Arthur Hollick.

July 2—"The Fungous Diseases of Shade Trees," Dr. W. A. Merrill.

THE Third International Physiotherapeutic Congress was inaugurated by President Fallières in the courtyard of the School of Medicine at Paris, on March 29. The London *Times* states that a large number of members of the French government and the diplomatic corps in Paris, including the British and American ambassadors, were present at the ceremony. M. Fallières in his address declared that all questions relating to the public health were the intimate concern of every government. He spoke of the advance of medical science in having established the fact that some diseases which were the great scourges of humanity could no longer be regarded as "inevitable," and he ventured to look forward to the day when by the aid of medical science these diseases would be actually eliminated. He also felt that the medical profession was justified in its hope of a future population which would be better adapted physically for the struggle of modern life in the office and in the workshop.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

ASSEMBLYMAN WHITNEY's bill to establish a state school of sanitary science and public health at Cornell University, and to appro-

priate \$10,000 toward its maintenance, has passed the New York assembly.

THE mining engineering building of the University of Wisconsin, formerly the old heating plant, has been entirely rearranged for its new purposes, and is nearing completion, much of the equipment of modern mining machinery having already arrived, and the laboratories will soon be in readiness for research and instruction.

DR. A. STANLEY MCKENZIE, professor of physics at Dalhousie University, and previously at Bryn Mawr College, has accepted a chair of physics at the Stevens Institute of Technology.

DR. CHARLES A. KOFOID, associate professor of histology and embryology in the University of California, has been appointed professor of zoology in that institution.

MR. HENRY HOMAN JEFFCOTT, head of the meteorology department of the British National Physical Laboratory, has been appointed to the chair of engineering in the Royal College of Science for Ireland.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE PLANET MARS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I should very much like to urge the importance of the suggestion made by Professor R. G. Aitken in the issue of SCIENCE for January 21, 1910, that Mr. Percival Lowell invite a committee of *recognized experts* in planetary observation, to go to Flagstaff and with him to observe the planet Mars (and if possible Venus and Mercury also).

I find here in South America just as keen an interest by the public in the real state of our knowledge as to Mars, as anywhere in the world, and am sure that no greater service could be rendered to astronomical science from the standpoint of the intelligent public, than to settle some of the many open questions relating to the surface markings of Mars.

As Professor Aitken points out, "doctors disagree" in this matter and to such an ex-