

and the domesticator of animals virtually contradict this idea, enough so at least that there is good basis for De Vries's bold prediction:

A knowledge of the laws of variation must sooner or later lead to the possibility of inducing mutations at will, and so of originating perfectly new characters in plants and animals. And just as the process of selection has enabled us to produce new races, greater in value and in beauty, so a control of the mutative process will place in our hands the power of originating permanently improved species of animals and plants.

C. V. PIPER

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
March 5, 1910

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

FOLLOWING the advice of its advisory board, The Wistar Institute of Anatomy is about to extend its work by the establishment of a department of embryology. At a meeting of the board of managers of the institute, held May 27, a professorship of embryology was established, and Professor G. Carl Huber, of the University of Michigan, was called to this chair. Professor Huber will begin his work at the Wistar Institute in 1911.

DR. WILLIAM COLBY RUCKER, of the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, has been granted leave of absence for one year to accept the position of health commissioner of Milwaukee.

DR. C. F. LORENZ, formerly of the Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, has entered upon the duties of his position as associate physicist in the Physical Laboratory of the National Electric Lamp Association. Mr. A. G. Worthing, of the University of Michigan, and Mr. M. Luckiesh, of the University of Iowa, have also accepted appointments in the laboratory.

MR. JEROME D. GREENE, secretary of the Harvard College Corporation, has been appointed superintendent of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and its new hospital.

DR. ALĚS HRDLÍČKA has been promoted to a curatorship of anthropology in the U. S. National Museum. He has started for South

America to carry on some work in Peru and Bolivia and to attend the Congress of Americanists.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has conferred its doctorate of science on Sir William Henry White, for many years director of naval construction of the British navy, and on Dr. W. J. Mayo, the eminent surgeon of Rochester, Minn.

ON the occasion of the installation of the Duke of Devonshire as chancellor of the University of Leeds, the degree of doctor of science was conferred on Lord Rayleigh, Sir Clements Markham and Professor William Osler.

LORD RAYLEIGH has been promoted from a corresponding to a foreign member of the Berlin Academy of Sciences.

DR. W. SOLOMON, professor of geology at Heidelberg, has been elected a foreign member of the Academy of Sciences in Milan.

THE two eminent pharmacognosists, Professor Arthur Meyer, of Marburg, and Professor A. Tschirch, of Bern, were elected honorary members of the American Pharmaceutical Association at the recent meeting in Richmond, May 3-7, 1910.

DR. ROLLIN D. SALISBURY, professor of geographic geology at the University of Chicago, has been elected president, and Dr. Henry C. Cowles, assistant professor of plant ecology, first vice-president, of the Geographic Society of Chicago.

THE American Philosophical Society has appointed its president, Dr. William W. Keen, to represent it at the Centennial Jubilee of the University of Berlin to be held in October next.

PROFESSORS SOLLAS and Bowman have been appointed university representatives from Oxford University to the eleventh International Geological Congress, to be held at Stockholm.

THE Barnard Medal was awarded at the commencement exercises of Columbia University to Professor Ernest Rutherford, director of the physical laboratories, University of Manchester. This medal, established

by the provisions of the will of President Barnard, is awarded quinquennially for discovery in physical or astronomical science, or the novel application of science to purposes beneficial to the human race, which in the judgment of the National Academy of Sciences shall be esteemed most worthy of such honor. The award of 1895 was to Lord Rayleigh and Professor William Ramsay; that of 1900, to Professor Wilhelm Conrad von Röntgen, and that of 1905, to Professor Henri Becquerel.

THE friends and former pupils of Mr. A. E. Shipley, of Christ's College, Cambridge, propose to present him with his portrait, in recognition of his "services to zoological teaching and research, and his eminent usefulness to the University and to his college." The portrait will be painted by Mr. William Nicholson.

PROFESSOR HELLER, director of the Pathologic Institute of Kiel, celebrated his seventieth birthday on May 1.

MR. FERDINAND ELLERMAN, in charge of the expedition organized by the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America to observe Halley's comet in the Hawaiian Islands, reports that in spite of unfavorable weather conditions he has obtained a set of excellent photographs of the comet. No trace of the comet's head could be seen while in transit over the sun, although it was carefully sought under favorable atmospheric conditions.

PROFESSOR R. W. WOOD, of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, who will spend next year abroad, will give, in London, the Thomas Young oration of the Optical Society and the Traill Taylor lecture before the Royal Photographic Society.

M. JEAN CHARCOT has returned to France on the *Pourquoi Pas* from his Antarctic expedition.

DR. CHARLES PEABODY, of Harvard University, has returned from North Carolina, where, during the month of May, he explored two groups of small mounds in Cumberland County, near Fayetteville.

DR. E. GRAWITZ, professor of pathology at Berlin, will visit this country in the autumn

and deliver an address before the New York Academy of Medicine on "Pernicious Anemia."

ON May 31, Mr. C. J. Holmes gave the first of two lectures at the Royal Institution on "Heredity in Tudor and Stuart Portraits"; on June 2, Major Ronald Ross gave the first of two lectures on "Malaria," and on June 4, Professor J. A. Fleming began a course of two lectures on "Electric Heating and Pyrometry," these being the Tyndall lectures.

DR. W. S. BRUCE, leader of the Scottish Antarctic expeditions of 1902-04 and 1911, gave a lecture, with lantern illustrations, on "Antarctic Exploration" at Oxford University on May 27.

PROFESSOR VICTOR BJERKNES, of the University of Christiania, gave a lecture on "The Synoptical Representation of Atmospheric Motions," at University College, London, on May 27.

GENERAL CYRUS BALLOU COMSTOCK, U. S. A. (retired), the eminent engineer, member of the National Academy of Sciences, died on May 29, at the age of seventy-nine years.

LIEUTENANT BOYD ALEXANDER, known for his important scientific explorations in Africa, was killed by natives in the Soudan, on April 2.

MR. J. B. N. HENNESSEY, F.R.S., known for his surveys and other scientific work in India, died on May 23, at the age of eighty years.

M. BERNARD BRUNHES, the director of the observatory of the Puy de Dôme, known for his researches in meteorology, has died at the age of forty-seven years.

DR. SALVATORI LO BIANCO, of the Zoological Station at Naples, has died at the age of fifty years.

M. GREHANT, professor of histology of the Museum of Natural History and director of the laboratory of the Ecole de Hautes Etudes, has died at the age of seventy-two years.

WE learn from the London *Times* that a number of visitors inspected the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington on March 18, by the invitation of Sir Archibald Geikie,

the president of the Royal Society, who is chairman of the general board. Those present included Lord Crewe, Lord Rayleigh, Sir J. Wolfe Barry, Sir Joseph Brunner, Sir William White, Sir Philip Watts, Sir Joseph Larmor, Sir John Thornycroft and Sir Gerard Muntz. The report states that last year the income amounted to £24,270, as against £21,871 in the previous year. Of this nearly £2,000 was due to the treasury grant for aeronautical work from June to December, and the fees for tests, etc., carried out rose from £13,088 to £14,240. The executive committee expresses the opinion that the time has now come when the interests of meteorology, terrestrial magnetism, etc., will be best served by separating them from the research and test work of the laboratory, the application of science to engineering, electrotechnics, naval architecture, etc.; and a report to this effect, embodying a scheme by which the change may be effected, has been transmitted to the treasury, by which it has been favorably received. The committee has also prepared a scheme, involving an estimated expenditure of £30,000, for providing the additional buildings required for carrying out this change satisfactorily, and also for increasing the inadequate accommodation for certain departments, particularly metallurgy and the general administration of the laboratory.

WE learn from *Nature* that a grant of £100 from the Worts Fund, of Cambridge University, will be made to Mr. E. A. Wilson, of Gonville and Caius College, who has been entrusted with the organization of the scientific department of the British Antarctic Expedition, 1910, towards defraying the expense of the equipment. The scientific staff of the expedition includes Messrs. D. G. Lillie, of St. John's College; E. W. Nelson, of Christ's College; T. G. Taylor, of Emmanuel College; E. A. Wilson, of Gonville and Caius College, and C. S. Wright, of Gonville and Caius College. Grants of £50 to Mr. C. E. Moss, curator of the University Herbarium, towards defraying the expense of botanical investigations which he proposes to make on the continent of Europe, and of £25 to Mr. R. H. Rastall, towards defraying the expense

of a visit which he proposes to make to South Africa for the purpose of carrying on geological investigations, will also be made.

THE April number of the *Journal of Home Economics* is largely devoted to a discussion of various phases of the school lunch question by nearly a score of writers. There is an article on school feeding in Europe by Miss Louise Stevens Bryant, who is in charge of the School Feeding Inquiry of the Russell Sage Foundation; Dr. Ira S. Wile writes on the general problem, while other articles furnish accounts of experiments that have been made in Philadelphia, New York and Boston. An interesting symposium is published on economy of materials in school lunches, containing in detail the practical working out of the problem in different parts of the country. Ignorance in the homes of the poor as a contributing cause of malnutrition of the children is a subject treated by Miss Gibbs of New York and Miss White of Baltimore, together with the remedy which has already proved effective in New York, that is, the work of the visiting dietitian. The American Home Economics Association which publishes the *Journal of Home Economics* aims "to improve the conditions of living in the home, the institutional household and the community," and unites all actively interested in home problems.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

At the commencement exercises of Bryn Mawr College it was announced that the college had obtained money sufficient to pay its debts, and in addition \$250,000, which entitled it to the appropriation of \$250,000 of the General Education Board. The sum raised by the Alumnae Association was \$304,900 which is to be used for the endowment of chairs in mathematics, English and economics.

THE legislature of Maryland has made an appropriation of \$25,000 a year for 1911 and 1912 for the Johns Hopkins University.

THE Jefferson Medical College has purchased the building formerly occupied by the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery at