

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

Eleventh and Clinton streets, Philadelphia, and will use it for laboratory purposes.

THE late Sir Donald Currie's daughters, Mrs. Mirrilees and Mrs. Percy Molteno, have given a sum of £25,000 to the University of Cape Town for the construction of a hall as a permanent memorial to Sir Donald Currie.

THE alumni of Brown University by a vote of 2,008 to 223 favor the removal of the denominational restriction which requires the president and the majority of the trustees to be baptists.

It is reported that from the answers to several hundred letters sent by Yale University to heads of preparatory schools and public high schools, the majority favor science and history as substitutes for Greek at the entrance examinations of the academic department. The changes will, it is said, probably be adopted at the entrance examinations in 1911.

DR. GEORGE BLUMER, professor of medicine, will succeed Dr. Herbert E. Smith as dean of the Yale Medical School.

MR. H. N. EATON, instructor in geology in the University of North Carolina, has been appointed to a similar position in the School of Mines, University of Pittsburgh.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Charles Darwin and the Origin of Species.

By E. B. POULTON. London and New York, Longmans, Green & Co. 1909.

Professor E. B. Poulton, Hope professor of zoology in Oxford University, has long been known as the leading proposer and defender of theories of mimicry, warning, directive and recognition coloration and the like. Next to the names of Bates and Müller, which are names of the pioneer observers and hypothesis makers in this field, stands the name of Poulton.

The name must now be associated with another distinction; it is that of the most loyal present-day disciple of Darwin. Poulton is a whole-hearted acceptor and ardent defender of everything that came from the mouth and pen of his immortal master.

There are no mental reservations about Professor Poulton's Darwinism; no interpretations other than the obvious ones; no buts nor howevers.

In his addresses (which I have referred to recently in other pages of this journal) at Baltimore in January, 1909, before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and at Cambridge in June of the same year at the great Darwin Commemoration Meeting, Professor Poulton was the conspicuous exception among the other speaking biologists in his unreserved acceptance and defence of Darwinian selection as the all-important factor in species-forming and evolution. He now appears as the author of a book explicitly given to the exposition and defence of this factor and to the answering of its critics.

The book comprises the two addresses already mentioned, together with two lesser ones given as banquet speeches on the same general occasions; another given at the Oxford Darwin celebration in February, 1909; an anniversary address given in December, 1908, before the Entomological Society of America in Baltimore; a group of about twenty hitherto unpublished letters written by Darwin to Roland Trimen between 1863 and 1871; and four brief appendices including notes on Darwin and the hypothesis of multiple origins, Darwin and evolution by mutation, Darwin's health and work, and De Vries's fluctuations as inconsistently treated by certain English believers in them. The whole collection is the consistent utterance of a perfect Darwinian.

The new Darwin letters do not add much to our knowledge of the master's personality, but they are interesting. They are full of glimpses of hard and constant work and continuous and interfering ill health. They touch especially—and this is their particular interest to Professor Poulton—the subject of color and pattern (Trimen was a devoted observer in this field). All the references to this subject are, however, tinged with the sexual selection hypothesis which was more importantly in Darwin's mind than any hypoth-