

to the feathers of birds of paradise, ostriches, domestic fowl or domestic pigeons. This act shall take effect July 1, 1911." By this act, therefore, aigrettes can not be legally sold in the state of New York after it becomes operative. The act protects not only egrets and other plume-bearing herons, but gulls, terns, albatrosses, eagles, vultures, and other birds slaughtered for their wings or quills, as well as all song and insectivorous birds.

THE *Auk* states that the new edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds, which has been some four years in preparation, will probably be ready for distribution about the end of the month. It will differ in several respects from the previous editions, both typographically and in the character of the matter. The arrangement and numeration, however, will be the same. The changes in nomenclature have already been announced in the various supplements that have been issued since the publication of the second edition in 1895, so that in this respect there will be few surprises. The "ranges," or the matter relating to the geographical distribution of the species and subspecies, have, however, been entirely rewritten and greatly amplified, thus fully reflecting the latest knowledge of the subject. Besides being given in greater detail and with more definiteness, they are arranged to show not only the general range of the forms, but also the breeding and winter ranges, so far as these are at present known. An abbreviated edition of the Check-List, consisting only of the English and technical names, numbered in accordance with the numeration of the previous editions of the Check-List, is in preparation and will be issued at about the same time as the regular edition. It will be of small size, with rounded corners and flexible covers, and thus handy for the pocket, and be printed on only one side of the leaf, thereby providing convenient space for annotations.

COAL-MINE fatalities in the United States in 1909 were fewer than in 1908, notwithstanding an increase of approximately 10 per cent. in the quantity of coal mined. The figures compiled by Edward W. Parker, statisti-

cian in charge, division of mineral resources, U. S. Geological Survey, show the total number of deaths from coal-mine accidents in 1909 to have been 2,412, against 2,450 in the preceding year. During the last five years the annual reports of the Geological Survey on the production of coal have contained a chapter on coal-mining accidents, their causes, and the relations to the number of men employed and the tonnage produced. These statistics are compiled almost entirely from statements furnished by state mine inspectors. It is expected that statistics of mine accidents in future years will be compiled by the new Bureau of Mines. The decrease in the number of fatal accidents during 1909 is the more gratifying from the fact that in the statistics for last year are represented four states—Georgia, Oregon, Texas and Virginia—from which no reports of accidents had previously been received. The statistics for these states were compiled from reports received by the Geological Survey from the operators. From the statistics of production in some of the more important states, as reported by the state officials, it is estimated that the total output in 1909 was approximately 450,000,000 short tons, against 416,000,000 tons in 1908. According to this estimate the production of coal in 1909 was 186,567 short tons for each life lost, against 167,545 tons in 1908. In 1907, when 3,125 men were killed, 145,471 tons were mined for each life lost. This was the year in which was made the darkest record in the history of the industry.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. F. C. SHATTUCK, Jackson professor of clinical medicine in the Harvard Medical School, has offered to endow with \$25,000 a fellowship to be known as the Henry P. Walcott fellowship in clinical medicine.

By the bequest of Dr. Byron Robinson, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin in the class of '78, who died last March, the university receives a large collection of books and pamphlets on anatomy, supplementing the gift of over a thousand volumes on the history of medicine made by Dr. Robinson shortly before

his death. The collection is to be known as the Robinson-Waite Library, in honor of the donor and his wife, Dr. Lucy Waite. The whole collection amounts to over 1,500 volumes and is valued at over \$4,000. Dr. Robinson's library is unusually rich in early American medical treatises and old anatomical plates, including many fine copperplates. Funds for the establishment of a scholarship in anatomy in the university medical school, valued at \$550 a year, are also provided in the bequest. This will be known as the Byron Robinson scholarship in anatomy, and is to be held by men or women students in medicine. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage the anatomical, physiological and pathological study of the sympathetic nervous system.

TEN university fellowships with a value of \$300 each have been established by the board of the regents of the University of Michigan. Each fellow is liable to render service to the university to the extent of not over four hours per week and must pay all fees.

THE Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., will recover \$350,000 from the bankrupt estate of the late Thomas E. Waggaman, its former treasurer, who owed the institution \$900,000 when he was adjudged bankrupt in 1904.

THE quarter centennial anniversary of the Oregon Agricultural College was celebrated on June 13 in connection with the regular commencement exercises. Mr. W. F. Herrin, of the class of '73, vice-president of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company delivered the oration.

At the May meeting of the board of regents of the University of Michigan the following changes were made in the staff of the museum: The title of the curator, Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven, was changed to instructor in zoology and head curator of the museum, Mr. Bryant Walker was appointed honorary curator of Mollusca, and Dr. W. W. Newcomb was appointed honorary curator of Lepidoptera.

MR. WM. E. LAWRENCE has resigned an assistantship in botany at the Oklahoma Agri-

cultural and Mechanical College to accept the instructorship in botany at the Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Ore.

THE following changes occur this year in the faculty of the Oregon Agricultural College: Professor E. F. Pernot, professor of bacteriology, has resigned to enter commercial work; J. C. Bridwell, instructor in zoology and entomology, has resigned to accept a similar position in the University of California; G. W. Peavy is appointed professor of forestry to succeed E. R. Lake, who takes leave of absence; E. F. Ressler, formerly president of the Monmouth State Normal School, is appointed professor of industrial pedagogy and director of the summer school; J. F. Morel, instructor in veterinary science; W. E. Lawrence, of Oklahoma Agricultural College, instructor in botany.

THE council of Liverpool University has appointed Mr. E. C. C. Baly, F.R.S., to the Grant chair of inorganic chemistry, vacant through the death of Professor Campbell Brown. Since 1903 Mr. Baly has held the post of lecturer in spectroscopy at University College, London.

MR. F. H. HUMMEL, lecturer on civil engineering at Birmingham, has been appointed professor of engineering at Belfast.

DR. JOHANNES HARTMANN, professor of astronomy at Göttingen, has been called to Vienna.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE APPARENT SINKING OF ICE IN LAKES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have read with interest Professor Barnes's letter, in your issue of June 3, on the apparent sinking of ice in lakes. I agree completely with his explanation of the supposed "sinking" of the ice; but his theories of the precedent warming of the water are quite different from the phenomena as observed here for a good many years. Professor Barnes supposes that the water of the lake during the winter gradually rises to 4°, beginning at the bottom; when the temperature of 4° reaches the under side of the ice, melting takes place both from above and below. Hence the rapid disinte-