

assistant in the teaching work; Mr. Charles Gregory, regular assistant on the grape disease investigations; Miss Agnes McAllister, laboratory assistant; Errett Wallace, fellow, lime sulfur investigation; V. B. Stewart, fellow, investigation of the diseases of nursery stock; C. N. Jensen, senior fellow on sulfur investigations; F. M. Blodgett, junior fellow on sulfur investigations; W. H. Rankin, fellow, investigation of the heart rots of trees; P. J. Anderson, fellow on cement dust investigations; I. C. Jagger, special assistant potato disease investigation; H. L. Rees, special assistant diseases of canners' crops; G. A. Osner, special assistant ginseng disease investigations; Miss Jessie M. Peck and Miss Margaret Edwards, stenographers.

DR. GUY POTTER BENTON, president of Miami University, has declined the presidency of Boston University.

DR. ROBERT B. BEAN, recently connected with the School of Medicine of Manila, P. I., has been elected associate professor of anatomy in the Medical School of Tulane University in place of Dr. H. W. Stiles, who has accepted a professorship in anatomy in Syracuse University.

DR. T. A. TORREY has been promoted to a full professorship of physical instruction and hygiene in the College of the City of New York.

MR. B. H. DOANE has been elected assistant professor of farm management in the University of Missouri and is placed in charge of the department, which is said to be the first of this character in the United States.

MR. CHAS. G. COLLAIS has resigned his position of Superintendent of Shops in the engineering school of Colorado College to accept the position of dean in the Kamehameha schools in Honolulu. Professor George J. Lyon, of the department of civil engineering in Colorado College, has accepted a similar position at Union College.

PROFESSOR A. VON STRÜMPPELL, who a year ago went to Vienna as professor of neurology, has accepted a call to Leipzig as successor to Professor H. Curschmann.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I recommend the following reform of the calendar:

The division of the year into twelve entire and two half-months; all entire months to consist of 28 days, and the half-months of 14 days. The first of the two half-months will be placed at the end of the first half year, and will be known as the "summer half-month"; the second half-month will follow the last month in the year, and will be known as the "winter half-month."

The 365th day and leap-year's day will be placed at the end of the year, and will be independent of the week or month, so that these days will neither have the name nor the date of a week-day.

I had at first expressed the idea (which I thought quite new) of dividing the year into 13 months of 28 days each; but it has come to my knowledge that this proposal had already been advocated by Auguste Comte, the philosopher, who died in 1857. After consideration, I would advise the above mentioned division as being more practical.

The advantages of such a calendar would be as follows:

Each day of the week would be in its fixed and unchangeable place in the future.

Each month would begin on the same week-day, this also applying to each year, each half-year and each quarter of the year.

This division would make the week and month measures of time, because the units "year" and "month" would, by this means, become, with an insignificant difference, complete multiples, always equal, of the time-unit "week," which is not the case at present.

A full explanation of the expediency of my proposition I shall eventually give later on.

Fritz REININGHAUS

ZURICH

---

### QUOTATIONS

#### THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION

THERE have been some expressions of apprehension of late lest the financial depend-

ance of colleges and universities upon the Carnegie Foundation, for the payment of professors' retiring allowances, should act as a serious limitation upon their independence in matters of educational policy. Harvard University, for example, may be drawing from the foundation fifty thousand dollars a year, at some future date, and its entire budget will naturally be prepared in reliance upon this important contribution; beyond that, every member of the faculty will be adjusting his living expenses with a view to drawing a pension from the foundation after he reaches the retiring age. Is it not inevitable that, without necessarily taking an abject attitude toward the foundation, the authorities of Harvard University should be consciously or unconsciously influenced in the directions favored by this large benefactor? Would they not naturally hesitate to incur the displeasure of so powerful a friend? Would such a degree of dependence be agreeable for the graduates and other friends of the university to contemplate? Such questions as these have suggested themselves to many minds since the establishment of the Carnegie Foundation; and they have lately given place in some quarters to emphatic expressions of discontent.

The *Bulletin* does not share these apprehensions. The Carnegie Foundation is controlled by a board of trustees who delegate a share of their authority to a small executive committee. This committee, in turn, has been guided largely by the very able president of the foundation, its chief administrative and executive officer. During the first years of the foundation the initiative of the president has naturally been a large factor in determining the scope of its activities. But admitting all this, the power remains vested in the board of trustees, a body consisting mainly of college and university presidents who represent a considerable variety mainly of institutions. For some years President Eliot was chairman of the board. . . .

It is reasonable to expect that in setting its standards of admission to the pension privilege the foundation will make from time to time certain moderate minimum requirements of

which no healthy institution once admitted can ever complain. As for the investigations and reports and the measuring out of praise or blame, this branch of the foundation's activities will have whatever weight may be derived from the intelligence, impartiality and public spirit of its officers. Taking into account the manner in which the board of trustees is constituted it would have been no unprecedented result if the reports of the foundation had been of a purely academic nature, calculated to preserve that self-satisfied attitude into which educational institutions often fall. That, on the contrary, the foundation has examined carefully and criticised fearlessly, is, in spite of all the mistakes of fact or errors of judgment its reports may contain, a cause for general congratulation. The good effects upon higher education throughout the country are already visible.—*The Harvard Bulletin*.

---

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Preliminary General Catalogue of 6,188 Stars for the Epoch 1900.* Prepared by LEWIS BOSS. Published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1910.

This handsome quarto volume is surely no aspirant for popular favor. Ninety per cent. of its bulk is given up to closely printed numerical tables of forbidding aspect to the average reader even of scientific works, and the forty pages of accompanying text will prove a meager diet to the amateur solicitous over the inhabitants of Mars or the terrestrial influence of comets. But, to that limited class of professional astronomers interested in problems of stellar motion, the work must appear as one of singular interest and importance, marking a stage of advancement rendered possible only by a happy union of the ample material resources of the Carnegie Institution with the large experience and assiduity of the veteran author. \

The major portion of the work, a scant 250 pages, sets forth by means of half a million figures and other mathematical symbols the positions and apparent motions for rather