

THE trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural College have established a department of zoology and geology with Mr. C. E. Gordon as its head.

DR. BIRD T. BALDWIN, who for the past year was a lecturer in the University of Chicago, has accepted a call to an associate professorship in education and head of the school of practise teaching in the University of Texas.

DR. FREDERICK P. GAY, of the Harvard Medical school, has been appointed head of the department of pathology of the University of California. Dr. H. B. Graham, who recently returned to Berkeley from Austria, has been appointed assistant professor of hygiene.

DR. F. L. HALEY, of Hoosick Falls, N. Y., has been made professor of physiologic chemistry and bacteriology in the medical department of the University of Alabama. Other additions to the faculty are: Dr. James F. Harrison, professor of chemistry and materia medica; Dr. M. Toulmin Gaines, associate professor of pathology and histology, and Dr. William H. Oates, associate professor of therapeutics.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE LUMINOSITY OF TERMITES

IN SCIENCE of January 7, 1910, I published a note in regard to the luminosity of termites. To that communication I am now able to make the following additions. Herbert H. Smith, a thoroughly trustworthy naturalist, makes the following note at page 139 of his work on "Brazil, the Amazons, and the Coast," New York, 1879:

There are white ant-hills along the sides—pale glows of phosphorescent light, like coals in the ashes. They look ghostly in the darkness.

In a footnote he adds:

The phosphorescence is in the insects; and I believe that it is peculiar to one or two forest species.

The locality where Mr. Smith observed this phosphorescence is near Santarem in the valley of the Tapajos.

Bearing on the other side of the question I here give a translation of a letter just received from my friend Dr. Joaquim Lustosa, a

Brazilian mining engineer living at Lafayette, state of Minas Geraes, of whom I have made inquiries about this matter. Dr. Lustosa writes as follows under date of July 8, 1910:

I have just received authentic information to the effect that in the state of Matto Grosso, in the low swampy lands along streams, and especially in the rainy months beginning with October myriads of fireflies are seen covering the ground. My informant, who has lately come from the upper part of Matto Grosso where it joins Bolivia, tells me that he has seen at night many of the nests of white ants that have been abandoned by the ants themselves entirely covered by fireflies that come from the small openings over the whole surface of the anthill. Is it possible that the fireflies select these abandoned anthills as places in which to rear their larvæ? . . . Unfortunately, I have never observed anything of the kind hereabout, though I have been interested in the subject in order to furnish you information.

It should be noted that the case mentioned by Dr. João Severiano da Fonseca and referred to in my communication of December 13, 1909, was seen in Matto Grosso in the region mentioned by Dr. Lustosa.

J. C. BRANNER

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CAL.,

August 9, 1910

HONEY ANTS IN UTAH

IN the autumn of 1908, Mr. Guy Hart, a student in the Salt Lake High School, brought to me for identification some of the repletes of the honey ant. He had collected them at Garfield, Utah, a smelter town at the southern end of Great Salt Lake. They had been found while excavating for a house, and Mr. Hart said that they had been noticed on several occasions during the progress of excavations.

I sent a few of these repletes to Professor W. M. Wheeler, and he determined them as a variety of *Myrmecocystus mexicanus*. This variety is closely related to *horti-deorum*, but the repletes are somewhat smaller than those of that variety.

Garfield is at an elevation of about 4,243 feet. Its latitude is approximately 40° 42' N. Honey ants have not heretofore been reported

as occurring farther north than Denver, Colo. (lat. $39^{\circ} 40' 36''$ N.); nor do I know of any previous record of their having been found in Utah.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

THE articles under the above caption by Professors Jastrow and Creighton in recent issues of this journal are timely contributions to one of the most important problems now engaging the attention of American educators. That interest in it is widespread, I am assured by personal conversation with representatives of college faculties from all sections of the union east of the Mississippi River.

About two years ago, local conditions forced the faculty of the Randolph-Macon Woman's College to adopt some means of conserving the scholarly status of the institution and of safeguarding the instructor's pedagogic liberty. A committee, appointed for the purpose, drafted a constitution for the college, which, after undergoing certain modifications suggested in conference with the president and board of trustees, was adopted by the board at its session in June of the current year. Its essential features are the following items, of which I would call particular attention to the fifth, sixth and seventh:

1. The fields of instruction which are at present recognized as distinct shall be constituted departments.
2. The senior professor in each field shall be head of the department, given its entire control, and held responsible for results.
3. The following grades shall be established in the instructional staff: (a) professor and head of department, (b) associate professor, (c) adjunct professor, (d) instructor, (e) assistant.
4. The president shall nominate heads of departments.
5. The heads of departments shall nominate their subordinates.
6. All questions affecting the educational policy of the institution shall be presented to the executive committee upon resolution of the faculty.
7. Only heads of departments may vote on questions affecting the educational policy of the college.
8. All members of the faculty except instructors

and assistants may vote on questions of routine business.

FERNANDO W. MARTIN

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Canada Department of Mines, Geological Survey Branch. Catalogue of Canadian Birds. By JOHN MACOUN, Naturalist to the Geological Survey, Canada, and JAMES M. MACOUN, Assistant Naturalist to the Geological Survey, Canada. Ottawa, Government Printing Bureau. 1909. Pp. viii + 761 + xviii.

This excellent piece of technical work is essentially a compend of known facts concerning the distribution and breeding habits of the birds of the Dominion of Canada, Newfoundland, Greenland and Alaska—of all America, in short, north of the main northern boundary of the United States. It is a second edition, largely rewritten and considerably expanded, of the well-known "Catalogue of Canadian Birds," prepared by John and James M. Macoun, father and son, and first published in three installments between 1900 and 1904. An important part of the contents of this volume is the product of field observations by the authors and by Mr. Wm. Spreadborough, made during many years of service on the Geological Survey of Canada, those of the senior author beginning in 1879, of the junior Macoun in 1885, and of Spreadborough in 1889. With their personal notes have been incorporated all pertinent data from the published work of other naturalists, and from manuscript lists and notes of more than a score of observers whose materials have been placed at the disposal of the compilers.

The plan of the work is extremely simple and unassuming. Preceded by no introductory discussion, and followed by no general summary, the catalogue begins at once with a discussion of the species, giving for each, in systematic succession, without descriptive matter, the details of its Canadian distribution, both geographical and ecological, its movements in migration, and its breeding habits, with descriptions of nests and frequently of eggs. The precise authority for observations reported is carefully given. Seven hundred and sixty-eight species are