

spoken of. Moreover, a professor of geography should have seen much of the world before he is appointed, and it ought to be an important part of his professional duties to travel frequently and far. I have never been able to settle to my own satisfaction the maximum income which a department of geography might usefully spend, but I have had considerable experience of working a department with an income not very far above the minimum. Till this year the Oxford School of Geography has been obliged to content itself with three rooms and to make these suffice not merely for lecture-rooms and laboratories, but also for housing its large and valuable collection of maps and other materials. This collection is far beyond anything which any other university in this country possesses, but it shrinks into insignificance beside that of a rich and adequately supported geographical department like that of the University of Berlin. This fortunate department has an income of about 6,000*l.* a year and an institute built specially for its requirements at a cost of over 150,000*l.*, excluding the site. In Oxford we are only too grateful that the generosity of Mr. Bailey, of Johannesburg, has enabled the school of geography to add to its accommodation by renting for five years a private house, in which there will temporarily be room for our students and for our collections, but where we can never hope to do what we might if we had a building specially designed for geographical teaching and research. Again, Lord Brassey and Mr. Douglas Freshfield, a former president of this section, have each generously offered 500*l.* towards the endowment of a professorship if other support is forthcoming. All this is matter for congratulation, but I need hardly point out that a professor with only a precarious income for his department is a person in a far from

enviable position. There is at present no permanent working income guaranteed to any geographical department in the country, and so long as this is the case the work of all these departments will be hampered and the training of a succession of competent men retarded. I do not think that I can conclude this brief address better than by appealing to those princes of industry who have made this great city what it is to provide for the geographical department of their university on a scale which shall make it at once a model and a stimulus to every other university in the country and to all benefactors of universities.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITIES

WE learn from a report in the *New York Evening Post* that the Association of American Universities met at the University of Virginia last week. Three papers were presented by delegates. The first, by President Bryan, of Indiana University, was on "Allowing Credit for Professional Work to Count toward the Degree of Bachelor of Arts."

President Bryan is in favor of allowing students to complete requirements for this degree in a standard college of arts and sciences, and in a professional school, in seven years where the professional course requires four years, and in six years where the professional course requires three; also of granting two degrees when the work for them has been done simultaneously, but separately. Emphasis was laid upon the statement that there should be no discrimination against colleges connected with universities.

The second paper, by Professor Calvin Thomas, "The Degree of Master of Arts," defended the two propositions: that work for this degree should require intensive work in one study for at least one year, and that the candidate should have a bachelor's degree

from some approved college. On the second day of the meeting President Van Hise, of the University of Wisconsin, discussed "The Appointment and Tenure of University Professors."

At the annual election, the University of Virginia was chosen president of the association, the University of Illinois vice-president and the University of Missouri a member of the executive committee. Harvard remains secretary and Columbia was reelected a member of the executive committee. Chicago was chosen as the next place of meeting. The work closed with a conference of deans, the most notable matter of discussion being the entrance requirements for graduate schools.

The delegates were: Dean Barrows, of California; Professor Bolling, of the Catholic University of America; President Judson and Dean Salisbury, of Chicago; Professor Sanford, of Clark; Professors Carpenter and Thomas, of Columbia; Dean Merritt and Professor Thilly, of Cornell; President Lowell, Dean Haskins and Secretary Little, of Harvard; Director Davenport, of Illinois; President Bryan and Dean Hoffman, of Indiana, Deans Wilcox and Seashore, of Iowa; Professor Ames, of Johns Hopkins; Deans Blackmer, of Kansas; Reed, of Michigan, and Downey, of Minnesota; President Hill, of Missouri; Deans Sherman, of Nebraska, and Ames and Fisher, of Pennsylvania; Dean West and Professor Conklin, of Princeton; President Jordan, of Leland Stanford Junior; President Van Hise, of Wisconsin; Dean Jones and Director Chittenden, of Yale, and President Alderman, Deans Page, Thornton, Lile, Dabney and Whitehead and Professors Tuttle, Kent, Wilson, Fitz-Hugh, Payne, Kastle and Faulkner, of Virginia.

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#### THE SALARIES OF PROFESSORS OF YALE UNIVERSITY

ATTENTION has already been called in SCIENCE to increases in the salaries of professors at Yale University. The official announcement of the action taken by the corporation is as follows:

Owing to the generosity of the alumni, a sum of about \$50,000 contributed by the Alumni Fund Association, was available for this purpose (professorial salary increases). Of this \$10,000 was set apart last spring for salary increases. Of the remainder, one third is now appropriated to increase the salaries of assistant professors and two thirds to increase the salaries of full professors. The new salary scale put into force continues instructors at from \$1,000 to \$1,600, increases assistant professors on the first term of appointment from \$1,800 to \$2,000, sets \$2,500 as the normal scale for the second appointment of the assistant professors' grade and reduces the period of the second appointment from five years to three years, making \$3,000 the normal salary for an assistant professor after the expiration of his second term.

All of the assistant professors of the first grade in the two undergraduate departments had their salaries raised to the new scale for the coming year.

It is believed that the new salary scale avoids the danger of an absolutely fixed scale on the one hand and of haphazard determination of individual salaries on the other. In the case of assistant professors the normal salary plan of the past is continued and strengthened, although the corporation reserves the right to withhold salary increases where the work is unsatisfactory.

In the case of professors, normal grades of \$4,000, \$4,500, and \$5,000 are adopted—with length of service, university responsibility and individual distinction as a scholar or teacher forming the criteria on which the president and dean of a department base their recommendations for advance to the corporation. On this plan twelve professors in the university were placed on the maximum salary of \$5,000 and a slightly larger number on the \$4,500 basis.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. EDGAR F. SMITH, for twenty-two years professor of chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania and for twelve years vice-provost, has been elected provost in succession to Dr. C. C. Harrison.

WE have not been able to obtain an authorized statement of the degrees conferred at the celebration of the centenary of the University of Berlin, but it appears that three honorary degrees were conferred on American men of science—the degree of doctor of philosophy on