

ica and Section G of the American Association. Dr. F. L. Stevens, of West Raleigh, North Carolina, is the president, and Dr. C. L. Shear, of Washington, D. C., secretary of the society.

THE annual meeting of the Home Economics Association under the presidency of Mrs. Ellen H. Richards, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be held at St. Louis at the time of the meeting of the American Economic Association and the American Sociological Association, December 27-30. Interest will center in the joint discussions by both associations on the teaching of economics in the high schools. The program of the Home Economic Association meeting may be secured by addressing the secretary, Benjamin R. Andrews, Teachers College, Columbia University.

THE American Museum of Natural History receives \$25,000 by the will of the late Charles E. Tilford, of New York City.

ACCORDING to a cablegram to the daily papers, a ceremony in celebration of the completion of the Vatican observatory under the direction of Father Hagen was held in the papal apartment on November 17. A speech was made by Cardinal Maffi, president of the observatory, to which the pope replied, highly commending the work of Father Hagen.

THE Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago announces its intention of making a study of the fresh-water, brackish and salt-water shore fish of the Canal Zone during the coming dry season. The study will be made before the completion of the canal, in order that the fish may be taken before they have had a chance to cross the divide and undergo the changes incident to a new environment.

LAST June Mr. Jake Gimbel, a merchant of Vincennes, Indiana, made possible the Gimbel expedition to British Guiana for the study of the fish of the family Gymnotidæ. During the summer this expedition was jointly equipped by Mr. Gimbel and Indiana University and on August 24 Mr. Max M. Ellis, A.M. (Indiana), teaching fellow in zoology, with Mr. Wm. Tucker, A.M. (Indiana), as assist-

ant, sailed via Ruebec Line for Georgetown. General collections were made in the Demerara and Essequibo rivers as well as Hubabu and Palmachusia creeks, supplementing those made by Dr. C. H. Eigenmann in 1908. A considerable amount of time was given to experimental work in and about Georgetown. Messrs. Ellis and Tucker returned to the United States on October 29.

THE department of plant pathology of the New York State College of Agriculture announces the establishment of three more industrial fellowships, as follows: The Ten Broeck fellowship, established by Wessel Ten Broeck, for the investigation of the effect of cement dust on the setting of fruit, injury to foliage, etc. The work on this fellowship, during the growing season, is conducted in a field laboratory near a large cement plant at Hudson, N. Y. Mr. P. J. Anderson, holder of the fellowship, is a 1910 graduate of Wabash College. The Byron fellowship, established by the Byron Fruit Growers' Association, of South Byron, N. Y., for the investigation of the diseases of fruit trees. Special attention will be given to the New York apple tree canker. The holder of this fellowship is Mr. Lex R. Hesler. He completes his work at Wabash College January 1, 1911. The Bethany-Batavia fellowship, established by the Bethany-Batavia Fruit Growers' Association near Batavia, N. Y., for the investigation of the diseases and insect pests of orchard crops, especially the diseases of apples. Particular attention will be given to the use of sulphur fungicides for the control of these diseases and pests. This fellowship as well as the Byron fellowship is established jointly in the departments of plant pathology and entomology. It provides for two fellows, one in entomology and the other in plant pathology. The work on this fellowship will begin in the spring of 1911.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It is announced that Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given a further sum of \$1,500,000 for the construction of buildings of the Carnegie Technical Schools at Pittsburgh.

By the will of Professor A. Marshall Elliott, the Johns Hopkins University receives his library, and the sum of \$2,000 for the establishment of a scholarship for graduate students in the department of Romance languages.

THE twenty-fourth annual convention of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland, will be held at Lehigh University on November 26 and 27. The three sessions of the convention will be devoted to the discussion of mathematics, science and English respectively. President Drinker, of Lehigh, will give the address of welcome. The address of Dr. J. M. Greene, of the New Jersey State Normal School, president of the association, will be on "Educational Economics."

WE learn from *Nature* that the Duke of Connaught on November 5 laid the foundation-stone of the new university hall of the Cape University. The council of the university presented an address, in which the hope was expressed that the union now accomplished in South Africa would lead to the conversion of the present Cape University into a teaching university for the whole of South Africa, by incorporating existing institutions of higher education as constituent colleges, and by creating chairs for those subjects for which no single college could provide. In replying, the Duke of Connaught said he trusted that the funds necessary to convert the Cape University into a great teaching university would be forthcoming. At a university luncheon, held on the same day, Mr. Malan, minister of education, announced that Mr. Otto Beit had agreed to divert the sum of £200,000, bequeathed by the late Mr. Alfred Beit for the foundation of a university at Johannesburg, to the creation of a great teaching university at Groote Schuur, the estate of the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes outside Cape Town. It was also announced that Sir Julius Wernher has promised to make up the amount to a total of £500,000.

At the University of Virginia the following promotions have been made: J. L. Newcomb to be professor of engineering, Edgar Graham

to be adjunct professor of chemistry; David Vance Guthrie to be adjunct professor of physics. W. S. Rodman, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed adjunct professor of electrical engineering.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The several suggestions for the simplification of the current calendar made in your columns by Reininghaus (July 29), Slocum, embracing those of Cotsworth (September 2), Patterson (October 14) and Dabney (October 21) awaken the hope that a calendar can be contrived which will be much superior to the present one and which at the same time will not encounter so much prejudice and human inertia as to be fatal to its adoption at an early date. It is, however, of the first importance that the new calendar be so well matured before its adoption is seriously urged that it will not itself need to be laid aside for something better by the time it has fairly come into use. To this end suggestions from various points of view followed by a period of deliberate study and tentative combination may well be regarded as indispensable to the best ultimate results. As a possible contribution to this preliminary work, I venture to suggest a calendar that embodies many of the excellent suggestions already made, but instead of introducing a 13th month, makes use of only 12 months of 4 weeks (28 days) each, bunching these into four groups and placing the remaining four weeks between these groups so as to set out the four seasonal quarters of the year distinctly. The purpose is to facilitate the use of the *quarters* of the year as convenient time divisions of an order intermediate between the month and the year. The quarters of the year already have a large place in the accountings of the industrial and financial world and are likely to grow into very important time divisions.

The integers of the proposed scheme are these:

(a) *Quarters*: Corresponding measurably to the *four seasons*.