567 deaths, 20,389 marriages and 1,365 divorces have been recorded.

A PARTY of about fifty railroad men visited the college of engineering of the University of Illinois on Wednesday, November 9. The party was composed of executive and engineering officers of the railroads having headquarters in Chicago. The visit was made upon the invitation of Dean W. F. M. Goss. Its object was the inspection of the buildings and equipment of the college of engineering, and a discussion of the possibility of a closer educational alliance between the railroad service and the university. After a trip of inspection over the plant of the college of engineering, an informal conference was held between the railroad officials and the heads of departments of the college. Resolutions were passed by the visiting party expressing their appreciation of the need of the college for ampler facilities and more complete equipment, especially along the lines of railway and transportation engineering.

UNDER the provisions of the Indian Museum act of 1910, the ethnological and art collections have been separated from those of economic products, and in his last report of the museum as originally constituted, the curator, Mr. I. H. Burkill, has, says *Nature,* given a useful account of its past history and present condition. The museum was first started by the Asiatic Society in 1814, the first donor being the Countess of Loudoun. The collections have passed through many vicissitudes, due to the absence of suitable accommodation. Under the present scheme of reorganization they have at last been placed upon a satisfactory footing. The ethnological gallery now contains about 11,000 exhibits, but it still lacks a proper descriptive catalogue, which can be prepared only by a competent ethnologist. The progress of the art series has been stimulated by the patronage of Lord Curzon, who provided an annual state grant of about £400 for the purchase of specimens. Most of the older economical exhibits have perished, but these are being gradually replaced. These collections are now being arranged in suitable galleries.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AT the November meeting of the Yale Corporation at the university, announcement was made of an anonymous gift of $15,000, the interest of which is to be used as an emergency loan fund in the interest of instructors and assistant professors of the university. Announcement was also made of the receipt of $30,000 of a fund of $50,000 left to the university by the late J. Burnett Collins, of Fort Worth, Texas; of the receipt of $20,000 from Newton Barney, of Farmington, Conn., toward the fund for the professorship of education, and the receipt of a like amount from the family of the late John H. Whittemore, of Naugatuck as a memorial gift.

THE University of Vermont has just received $25,000 by the will of Lewis L. Coburn, a graduate of the class of 1859.

A VIVARIUM for botany and zoology is being constructed at Dartmouth College. It will be a glass and concrete structure, forty-three feet long. Part of the building will be devoted to the experimental work of a new course in physiological botany. The interior fixtures will consist of double rows of concrete tables for the plants, and floor tanks with running water for plants and animals. The building will probably be ready for use by the first of next semester.

THE dean of Northwestern University Medical School announces that hereafter the institution will require two years of collegiate work for admission instead of one year as heretofore.

DR. J. S. THOMSON has been appointed demonstrator in zoology at the University of Manchester in succession to Dr. W. D. Henderson, appointed lecturer in zoology in the University of Bristol.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ROMANTIC NOMENCLATURE

THE difference between the name *quintus* and the numeral *5* as a partial designation for a species excites my friend, Professor Cockerell, to considerable exaggeration.[1] Indeed,

[1] SCIENCE for September 30, p. 428.

he writes as though I had proposed to abolish altogether names for species. He illustrates by an eleven-place numeral in three divisions, whereas the numerical part of such specific designations as I propose would be in one, two or three places. The effort to discredit is too obvious. He says that every man, woman and child has a name. True. Every calf and every pig had a name on my father's small farm in years gone by; but when calves become too numerous, as on a ranch, practical purposes are served better by a numbered tag on bossy's ear. He says that numerals are mixable, and this also is true. The wooden keys a foot long to the front doors of our forefathers were doubtless harder to lose than the little steel ones we now use, and when marked with the name of the man who made them they carried doubtless, for the initiated, a considerable measure of romance. Nevertheless, today we are carrying the little mixable keys stamped out by machinery, and would hardly think of returning to the use of wooden ones. My friend's arguments are entirely admissible. The trouble with them is that they prove too much. The answer to them is that the use of numerals is at the beginning of accuracy in all such fields of activity.

I proposed that all names be carefully preserved each with its author's name and all its romantic history. I proposed that they should have official cognizance and be printed in a book. I did not propose that this book be taken out into the back lot and burned (as one might think from my friend's astonishment), but that it be made accessible to every one, so that the lover of its romance might lave in it to his soul's content. I merely proposed that in addition to such names, we have also a standard list of briefer designations that practical biologists and others might use when doing business.

I will not ask, "What can be the state of a man's mind," who is quite satisfied with existing nomenclatural abominations, for it might seem to imply disrespect for one whom I hold in high esteem, the least of whose services to science have consisted in the naming of new species, and who is the very man I was hoping would have something to say on the main question I have raised,[2] "Whether there is not a better way of disposing of our nomenclatural trouble than by making it as burdensome as possible and then making it permanent?"

James G. Needham

A COMMON SUMACH GALL PRODUCED BY A MITE

In Dr. Needham's excellent "General Biology," on page 37, is a figure of a gall on sumach, which looks just like one very common here at Boulder. As we are using the work as a text-book in the University of Colorado, it became necessary to ascertain whether our gall was really the one figured. Dr. Needham's figure is stated to represent a fungus-gall, but ours is due to a mite. It seems worth while to publish a note on the subject, as confusion is likely to occur if there are really two quite different galls on sumach, looking so much alike. There is a "witches' broom" fungus (*Exoascus purpurascens* Ell. & Ev.) recorded from *Rhus copallina*. The gall masses, as we find them here on *Rhus glabra cismontana* (or *Rhus cismontana* Greene), consist of modified branches with small curled leaflets. The masses are about six inches long and four wide when well developed, and turn red with the normal leaves in the fall. The leaflets are reduced to small warty curled up objects about 12 mm. long. The mite, which may be termed *Eriophyes rhoinus* n. sp., is about 140 μ long and 40 broad, with about 70 cross-striæ, which encircle the body. The posterior dorsal ridges, between the striæ, are distinctly enlarged. The surface, as usual, is minutely punctulate. The usual four pairs of sublateral bristles are present, the first near the tenth ring, the second near or a little beyond the twentieth, the third about 25 μ beyond the second, and the fourth about 32 μ beyond the third. The caudal bristles are moderate, about 60 μ long.

It is very likely the same species which has been recorded by Mr. T. D. Jarvis[1] as affect-

[2] Science for September 2, p. 296.

[1] Rept. Entom. Soc. Ontario for 1908, pl. K, fig. 3.