

against this disease; and Pennsylvania is the first state to undertake these methods on a large scale.

THE Association of American Geographers will publish, beginning with this year, an annual volume to be known as the *Annals* of the Association. This will be devoted to the most important scientific papers presented at the annual meeting. The publication will be managed by a committee composed of Mr. Alfred H. Brooks, of the U. S. Geological Survey; Professor Henry C. Cowles, University of Chicago; Professor Ralph S. Tarr, Cornell University, and Professor Richard E. Dodge, Teachers' College, Columbia University.

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that the principal centers in India in which plague occurred during 1910, and the deaths consequent thereupon, were as follows: Bombay Presidency, 36,831; Bengal, 30,546; United Provinces, 144,266; Punjab, 143,416; Central Provinces, 42,104; Rajputana, 37,657; Burma, 7,605. The following are the most recent general statistics: October 22 to 31, 1910, 5,641; November, 26,189; December, 39,604. Total deaths, 71,434, making, with deaths, July to October 22, 20,828, total for half year, July to December, 92,262. During the first six months of 1910 the deaths numbered 360,632. Total deaths during 1910, 452,894. It would appear that the recrudescence of plague in 1911 has begun in a more virulent form than in 1910. In January, 1911, the deaths from plague in India numbered 75,468. This is a higher figure than in 1910, when in January the deaths amounted to 51,437.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of Henry F. Dimmock, of New York, Yale University will receive about \$100,000 and under certain contingencies will receive twice this amount.

In addition to the regular course in general surveying, the School of Mines of the University of Arizona will start this year a summer school of mine surveying lasting through the month of June. This course, which will cover the details of underground surveying, the con-

struction of stope plans and other allied subjects, will be conducted by Mr. Eugene R. Rice, engineer of the Hite Gold Mines, city engineer of Wickenburgh, etc. The work will be done in one of the numerous mines near Prescott, Arizona.

DR. ARTHUR H. WILDE, who has been connected with Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., since 1892 and has been secretary of the university council since 1909, has accepted the presidency of the University of Arizona, at Tucson, and will take up his duties there on May 1.

DEAN JULIET GREER, professor of domestic science and art of the Oregon Agricultural College, announces her resignation from the position which she has held for three years, the resignation to take effect the coming July.

RICHARD SWANN LULL, B.S., M.S. (Rutgers), Ph.D. (Columbia), assistant professor of vertebrate paleontology in Yale College and associate curator in the Peabody Museum, was made professor of vertebrate paleontology in Yale University at the corporation meeting of April 17. At the same meeting Dr. George Grant MacCurdy was appointed assistant professor of archeology. He is secretary of the American Anthropological Association and of Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

New appointments and promotions at Stanford University for the academic year beginning August 1, 1911, are as follows:

#### New Appointments:

Noah F. Drake, associate professor of economic geology. Dr. Drake is a graduate, A.B., A.M. and Ph.D., of Stanford University; professor of geology and mining in Imperial Pei Yang University, Tientsin, China, since 1898.

Mr. Henry V. Poor, instructor in graphic art. Mr. Poor received his A.B. degree at Stanford, 1910, and is now studying abroad.

Mr. Jesse B. Sears, instructor in education. Mr. Sears received the A.B. degree at Stanford, 1909; now instructor in the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Harry J. Sears, Stanford, A.B., 1910, instructor in chemistry.

Miss Alice R. Berger, Stanford, A.B., 1908, acting instructor in chemistry.

## Promotions:

Robert E. Swain, to be professor of physiological chemistry.

Lillian J. Martin, to be professor of psychology.

John O. Snyder, to be associate professor of zoology.

Percy E. Davidson, to be associate professor of education.

Rufus C. Bentley, to be associate professor of education.

LeRoy Abrams, to be associate professor of botany.

Clara S. Stoltenberg, to be associate professor of physiology.

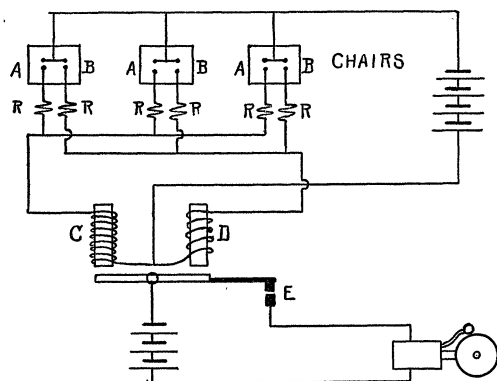
David M. Folsom, to be associate professor of mining.

Galen H. Clevenger, to be associate professor of metallurgy.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

## FACULTY BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

FOR the purpose of facilitating the despatch of business the following electrical device is suggested. The method of operation will be evident from an inspection of the diagram of the electrical circuits. All the chairs of the faculty room are fitted with electric circuits as indicated in the three chairs shown. Each chair has two switches; those indicated by *B* are automatically closed when the chair is



occupied; those indicated by *A* are push-button switches concealed on the arm of the chair to be closed by hand. *R, R, R*, etc., are suitable rheostats all of the same resistance. It is evident that when any number of chairs are occupied the combined current through

the switches *B* will excite the electromagnet *D*. If the electromagnet *C* has twice as many turns of wire as *D* then, when a majority of those present at any meeting close the hand switches *A*, the magnet *C* will exert more pull upon the armature than *D*, thus causing the contact *E* to be closed and the bell to ring.

The apparatus is not intended primarily as a means of taking formal votes but as an impersonal means of calling for the previous question. In place of the bell it might be considered desirable to use an electric sign with the exhortation "*sit down*."

S.

## MUSEUM LABELING

ON the first two pages of the March issue of the *Museum News* of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences are many ideas pleasing to those interested in museum labeling. These stand out in contrast to some ideas with which museum men in this country, especially during the last decade, have been overwhelmed. The art of label writing, as there stated, is truly a gift. Many people fail to understand this and few realize that one must sometimes let an unsatisfactory label stand for a time, just as a minister sometimes preaches a poor sermon.

The *Museum News* is almost an ideal example of what a museum newspaper should be. It is dignified, conveys not only interesting but true information and also has a distinct tendency to cause the reader to wish to help not only the museums of Brooklyn, but the museums of the country.

HARLAN I. SMITH

## WILKES'S ANTARCTIC DISCOVERIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The *Zeitschrift* of the Geographical Society of Berlin recently published a short notice<sup>1</sup> or review of my article "Why America should Reexplore Wilkes Land."<sup>2</sup> The reviewer finds fault with the article and attempts to straighten it out in the following words:

<sup>1</sup> *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin*, 1910, No. 7, p. 469.

<sup>2</sup> *Proceedings American Philosophical Society*, Vol. XLVIII., 1909.