

table of fixed dates. It combines all the best points of the proposals that have been published in these columns, and avoids their bad points.

The plan for its adoption has all the simplicity that usually accompanies really good things and is as follows:

In the year 1911, the days of the week in the months of September, October, November and December coincide with the arrangement in the proposed calendar. If, any time during the year 1911, the governments of the various nations will decide to declare the thirty-first of December of that year, and of all future years, a non-week-day, one half of the problem will have been solved. If they will then declare that during the year 1912, and all future years, the number of days in the five months February, March, April, May and August shall be changed in accordance with the accompanying table, the entire problem will have been solved.

As this is a perfectly simple, practical and conservative plan for overcoming difficulties that every one is obliged to contend with every day of his life, steps should be taken by those in a position to do so, to have the president authorized to appoint a commission to investigate the matter thoroughly, with authority to confer with the similar commissions to be appointed by other governments and by the Vatican, to the end that some such scheme shall be adopted.

The conditions necessary for the adoption of this scheme as outlined above will recur in

INVARIABLE TABLE OF DATES  
For the Quarters

Days	Months														
	January April July October					February May August November					March June September December				
Sunday .....	1	8	15	22	29	...	5	12	19	26	...	3	10	17	24
Monday .....	2	9	16	23	30	...	6	13	20	27	...	4	11	18	25
Tuesday....	3	10	17	24	31	...	7	14	21	28	...	5	12	19	26
Wednesday	4	11	18	25	...	1	8	15	22	29	...	6	13	20	27
Thursday...	5	12	19	26	...	2	9	16	23	30	...	7	14	21	28
Friday.....	6	13	20	27	...	3	10	17	24	...	1	8	15	22	29
Saturday...	7	14	21	28	...	4	11	18	25	...	2	9	16	23	30
Non-week day <sup>1</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31

<sup>1</sup> Only in December of ordinary years and also in June of leap years.

1917, and as it is hardly likely that any scheme can be agreed upon by December, 1911, we may look to that year to free us from the inconveniences under which we have suffered so long.

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## QUOTATIONS

### THE GOVERNMENT OF UNIVERSITIES

AMERICANS interested in the questions of university government will find much that is interesting and pertinent to our own situation in the admirable article on "Modern Universities and their Government" which is the leading feature of the London *Times's* educational supplement for April 4. We are very much in the habit of thinking of our universities, with ultimate power over the institution resting in the lay boards of trustees, as being in this respect quite unlike any other educational institutions of similar importance; and this is natural enough, since the half-dozen new universities that have been established in the chief provincial cities of England, and which are probably their only important analogues, are of such recent origin as to be seldom prominently in our thoughts in this connection. It is the government of these new universities, and especially the methods and the spirit of their procedure in the appointment of professors, that constitute the subject of the *Times* article; a subject justifying the extreme seriousness with which it is discussed because the universities in question are expanding with such rapidity that they "have to a large extent the future of English learning in their hands."

Both the resemblances and the differences that suggest themselves, as between the American and the English experience, are of decided interest. Into the details of the English organization we shall not attempt to enter; suffice it to say that the active governing authority of the university, corresponding to our board of trustees, is what is known as the council; and while this council is not nominally self-electing or self-renewing, in practise it is so. Perhaps the most interesting state-

ment made about the councils is that which refers to the personal attitude of the members who constituted those bodies in the first place, and to the signs of a change which seems to be more or less in danger of showing itself as matters settle down to a more mechanical routine. The large prospect of creative utility which the foundation of the provincial universities opened up attracted the services in their councils of some of the ablest business men in England, who felt that they were privileged to take part in the building of great institutions of national importance. "And, being large-minded men," says the *Times* writer, "they have usually recognized the limits of their own competence, and know what matters to leave in the hands of the experts. They have respected and trusted the scholars by whose presence their cities were enriched." In some of the successors of these large-minded men, a tendency has been observed to depart from this fine attitude. "The smaller man is apt to have less respect for and less trust in the scholar than the bigger man, and a more serene confidence in his own capacity as a 'business man' to deal wisely with any and every question that may come before him."

Speaking broadly, it is safe to say that while our boards of trustees have furnished illustrations of both of these types of attitude and conduct, neither their merits nor their defects have been so pronounced as the *Times* article represents to be the case in England. Many trustees of American universities, however, have done a great amount of important and unselfish service, animated by that same feeling of the honor and the usefulness of their posts as obtained with the able men who helped to build up the new English universities; while, on the other hand, the instances of pretentious or ignorant meddling by trustees have been very rare in this country, in the case of universities of high standing and importance. But this abstention from harmful interference on their part has been accompanied, in most cases, by that abnormal concentration of power in the hands of the university president which has formed so

prominent a subject of recent academic controversy.

It is a notable circumstance that, varied as are the methods of selection discussed in the *Times* article, there is not a word of discussion as to the tenure of the professor after appointment. That a professorship should be a life position it does not seem to occur to any one to question. The defects that exist in regard to the matter relate entirely to the way in which the selection is made. In this respect great differences exist; some of the university councils proceeding upon exceedingly crude "business" notions of the way in which the best man is to be found, while others have established methods that are, in the opinion of the *Times* writer, the best that could possibly be devised. In these cases, the most careful inquiry is instituted, in the first instance, by a committee of the particular faculty concerned, an inquiry which results in the adoption of different methods—including, when necessary, that of advertisement—according to circumstances; the senate considers the result of this inquiry, and then makes its recommendation of a particular person to the council, giving "a full and reasoned statement" of the grounds for its choice. Of course, this recommendation is usually adopted without question; but the process, with a council of the right sort, is evidently a wholesome one. It is not altogether different from that obtaining in some of our own universities; but what strikes one in reading of it is the profound realization of the importance of making the best possible choice. This, as well as the permanency of tenure, is sure to have a powerful influence in the preservation of the ideas of dignity and importance which ought to attach to the post of a university professor; and it is evident that in England as well as with us much will depend on the vigor with which, now and in the near future, those ideas are insisted on by the public opinion in the educational world. "Lay hands suddenly on no man," but, having chosen him, let him feel that his position is assured—this is the rule that must guide in professorial appointments if we are to get the maximum of that real

university efficiency which can not be measured by any mechanical tests, but which has its root in the personality of the professors.—*The New York Evening Post*.

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*A Directory of American Museums.* Compiled by PAUL MARSHALL REA. Being No. 1, Volume X., Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. 8vo, pp. 360. Buffalo, N. Y. 1910.

The object of this directory is to give, as far as possible, a complete list of the museums of America, using the word in its broad sense, with information as to their purposes, character and extent of their collections, mode of support, manner of administration, staff and publications, with a brief sketch of the history of each institution. It is arranged alphabetically by states and cities, and, with the index, comprises 360 pages, 313 being devoted to the museums of the United States. The collections are listed mainly under certain specified headings; anthropology, art, botany, geology, paleontology, zoology, and the approximate number of specimens on exhibition and in the study series is stated. Great pains have been taken to have this information as exact as possible, and it will be found that in many cases there is a very considerable reduction in the size of collections from that noted in the list prepared by F. J. H. Merrill and that in a few instances there is stated to be "no museum," where one was said to exist in 1903.

The data given, checked by the character of the financial support, and a knowledge of the staff, will furnish a pretty good idea of the size and importance of the institutions noted.

The preparation of the work was authorized in 1908 at the second meeting of the Association of American Museums and the arduous duty of gathering the information and making it ready for publication was performed by Paul M. Rea, secretary of the association. The cost of issuing the work, which has been considerable, was generously borne by the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. It was hoped to have had the directory issued as a

memorial of the Buffalo meeting of the association, but owing to inevitable delays in securing needed information it did not appear until late in 1910.

As the only directory of American museums previously issued is that prepared by F. J. H. Merrill and published in 1903, by the education department, state of New York, this volume is very welcome. We should have been glad of a brief summary, giving the number of museums in the United States, their total annual expenditure and the number of their staff, but this may well be left for some one interested in the study of statistics.

In conclusion it may be said that if, as Dr. Goode considered, the museum is the most advanced of institutions for the education of the public the United States stands well to the fore.

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*Studies on the Structure and Affinities of Cretaceous Plants.* By MARIE C. STOPES and K. FUJII. Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc., London, Series B, Vol. 201, 1910, pp. 1-90, pls. 1-9.

A glance at the above somewhat impressive title might lead one to presume that we have to do with a paper of broad, possibly worldwide, scope, and it is not until we reach page 4 that we learn incidentally that it deals exclusively with material from Hokkaido, northern Japan. Here the authors have been exceedingly fortunate in securing nodules—presumably silicified—in which are preserved fragments of vegetation which indicate the presence of a varied and interesting flora, and suggest, in the manner of occurrence, the English Carboniferous nodules which have yielded such splendid results to Williamson, Scott and others. It is much to be regretted, however, that the present paper does not give more explicit information regarding the geological position of the material, the only data on this point consisting of the following statement: "In nearly every case there are parts of shells of Ammonites in the nodules. These have been described by Yabe, and there is no doubt, as a consequence, that the plants are of Cretaceous age." That the description of the