

high atmosphere will also be made in connection with aviation. The president of the committee is the marine minister, and representatives of the chief institutes, academies and societies which take interest in sea investigations have been appointed as members. In addition the committee has a scientific staff of its own; it receives a yearly grant from the Italian government of 60,000 lira; and the ships for the cruises are supplied by the Italian navy. Four cruises in the Adriatic Sea have taken place already, the program of which was agreed upon with the delegates of the Austrian government, and a fifth cruise will soon start.

THE report of the departmental committee appointed to report on the present condition and the future development of the collections comprised in the Science Museum at South Kensington and the Geological Museum in Jermyn-street, has been issued as a parliamentary white paper. According to an abstract in the *London Times* the committee finds that the objects now exhibited are so much crowded that their due classification and utilization are impossible. Buildings twice the size of those now used would be fully utilized by the existing collections without the addition of a single specimen. The committee states that the physics section is hopelessly overcrowded. In the motor car and aeronautical groups, both early construction and later developments will require further illustration. The electrical engineering section requires to be increased by five or six times its present dimensions. In no section is there more urgent need of early action to secure for the museum examples of instruments and appliances that have marked the opening of a new era in invention and industry. A conference room, where scientific or technical societies might meet, a large lecture theatre, public demonstrations in the galleries, and the exhibition of temporary collections are also suggested. It is recommended that the geological survey offices and library and the Museum of Practical Geology, which are now cramped by the limitations of the building in Jermyn-street, should be grouped,

as at present, in a single building, and it would be of great advantage to have that building erected as part of the general scheme at South Kensington. If the collections in the Science Museum and in the Jermyn-street Museum were brought together they would provide the basis of a collection that would be complete as regards stratigraphical and economic geology. Such a collection in the new buildings, with the systematic collection of minerals and the paleontological collections in the British Museum (Natural History), would represent at a single center the whole field of geological science. In most of the departments of science and its applications, the committee concludes, the museums contain much that is of great historical interest and value. They are rich in specimens, instruments, machines and models selected and exhibited in such a manner as to repay systematic examination by the student. In many sections, however, the collections are now far below the standard which it is clear they ought to reach in these matters, and their proper organization is impossible in the existing accommodation. A science museum in which all branches of physical science, pure and applied, and the scientific and economic work of the geological survey shall be adequately illustrated in close proximity to the other great museums at South Kensington would be of incalculable benefit alike to intellectual progress and to industrial development.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AT the recent session of the Alabama legislature the University of Alabama was given an additional appropriation of \$300,000, to be expended during the next quadrennium for maintenance and new buildings.

Two gifts from Mr. Carnegie to the Carnegie Technical Schools were announced last week. On his recent visit to Pittsburgh he presented the schools with a valuable 725-acre tract of land that he had owned for some years at Garver's Ferry, twenty-five miles up the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh. It will be converted at once into an experimental

station and engineering camp. The other gift was a set of designs by Mr. John Wynkoop, made in the École des Beaux Arts of Paris and awarded a medal.

THE inauguration of Dr. George Edgar Vincent as president of the University of Minnesota will take place October 18 or 19 next. The date has been fixed by the fact that the American Association of State Universities will meet at Minnesota on these days.

PROFESSOR JAMES R. ANGELL, head of the department of psychology and dean of the Senior Colleges, has been chosen by the board of trustees of the University of Chicago to succeed George E. Vincent, now president of the University of Minnesota, as dean of the faculties of arts, literature and science.

MR. GEORGE CHANDLER WHIPPLE, formerly in charge of the biological laboratory of the Boston water department and later of the sanitary work connected with the water supplies of New York City, since 1904 practising sanitary engineer, has been appointed professor of sanitary engineering in the Graduate School of Applied Science of Harvard University.

DR. ERNEST SACHS, of New York City, has been appointed associate in surgery at the Washington University Medical School, St. Louis.

IN Stanford University J. A. Koontz and E. G. McCann have been made instructors in electrical engineering.

DR. H. N. ALCOCK, London, has been appointed to the chair of physiology in McGill University.

DR. EMIL ABDERHALDEN, professor of physiology in the Berlin veterinary school, has been called to Halle, to succeed Professor Bernstein, who retires from active service at the close of the present semester.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE COMPARATIVE VALUE OF METHODS FOR ESTIMATING FAME

IN a recent contribution upon "Historiometry as an Exact Science"¹ Dr. F. A. Woods

¹ SCIENCE, April 14, 1911.

calls attention to what appears to be a failure of the "space method," as compared with the "adjective method," in solving the problem which I proposed in SCIENCE, October 7, 1910, viz., to determine by purely objective methods the comparative fame of Sophocles and Euripides. This apparent failure might seem to support my statement that "historiometry so-called can never aspire to the name of an exact science" were it not for the fact that Dr. Woods has not established the superiority of the adjective method in this particular instance. For the purpose of illustrating the comparative value of methods for estimating fame I wish to examine the problem of the two Greek poets a little more closely.

Those who are familiar with Greek literature are well aware that Sophocles is superior to Euripides in majesty, grandeur and the various other qualities quoted by Dr. Woods from Mr. Jebb and the critics. But there was one quality, not named by Dr. Woods, in which Euripides excelled Sophocles and this one quality more than outweighs the sum of his deficiencies. Mrs. Browning alludes to this quality in her poem "Wine of Cyprus."

Our Euripides the human,
With his droppings of warm tears,
And his touches of things common
Till they rose to touch the spheres.

The humanity of Euripides and "his touches of things common" have appealed to mankind far more than the majesty and ideal art of Sophocles. Aristotle states that Sophocles represented the men and women of his dramas as they ought to be, but that Euripides represented them as they actually were. It was because he was the first to portray upon the stage the motives and lessons of every-day life that philosophers, statesmen, poets and all other conditions of men have come to prefer the plays of Euripides to those of any other ancient writer.

In comparing Sophocles and Euripides it must be remembered that the latter inaugurated a new epoch and the changes which he