THE salaries of professors in Oberlin College have been increased $200 each, and the salaries of associate professors $300 each, these increases to go into effect at the beginning of the next college year.

ALL of the qualified men in this year's graduating class in the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin have secured positions and the requests for teachers are still coming in. The demand is especially strong from agricultural high schools both in Wisconsin and other states. Many of the requests are for men who have been brought up on farms, have had some teaching experience and also have had a thorough course in agriculture. The demand for such instructors in agriculture for high schools is very much greater than the supply. Even as early as four weeks ago most of the seniors had accepted positions as farm managers, as research assistants, or as teachers of agriculture in colleges and secondary schools. The average salary of the men who will teach next year in agricultural schools is $1,253.

PROFESSOR G. A. BLISS, of the University of Chicago, and Professor Max Mason, of the University of Wisconsin, have been appointed lecturers in mathematics at Harvard University, the former for the first, and the latter for the second half of the academic year.

DR. STEWART PATON '86, has been appointed lecturer in biology at Princeton University.

DR. GEORGE S. MOLER, has been promoted to a full professorship of physics at Cornell University.

R. C. MULLENIX, Ph.D. (Harvard), professor of biology in Yankton College, South Dakota, has been elected to a similar position in Lawrence College, at Appleton, Wis.

THE following instructors have been appointed at Princeton University: in the department of physics, C. J. Davisson and P. Rosenberg; in the department of electrical engineering, George Olshaussen, Ph.D.; in the department of biology, E. Newton Harvey, instructor in physiology; in the department of civil engineering, P. R. Bickford '11 and A. C. Cornish '11, instructors in civil engineering; J. H. Drummond '11, instructor in geodesy.

IN the Harvard Medical School instructors have been appointed as follows: Dr. Marshal Fabyan, in comparative pathology; Dr. F. P. Johnson, in histology and embryology; Dr. L. B. Nice, in physiology, and Dr. C. G. Page, in bacteriology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

CONCERNING THE "NEMATOCYSTS OF MICROSTOMA"

PROFESSOR KEPNER in a preliminary communication entitled "Nematocysts of Microstoma"[1] brings forward additional evidence showing that nettle capsules capable of subsequent discharge may be transferred from cœlenterates to flatworms much as they are from hydroids and actinians to eolids. The mechanism of this interesting and suggestive process is described in some detail, but it is hoped that this will be added to and clarified when certain proposed experiments have been carried out. Quite apart from its subject-matter, however, Professor Kepner's paper has an interest especially in the light of Dr. McDermott's recent "Plea for the Use of References and Accuracy Therein."[2]

Thus on page 271, almost seven lines are quoted and attributed to Boulenger, pp. 127–8. Not only are there no such pages in Boulenger's article,[3] but the words are taken from my own paper.[4]

In the next paragraph Professor Kepner states that the cuidophages of æolids deliver their nematocysts to the cnidocyst, whereas the endodermal cells of *Microstoma* deliver their nematocysts to the mesoderm. Unfortunately for the analogy, both Grosvenor[5] and I[6] have shown that the cnidophages after en-

[1] *Biological Bulletin*, Vol. XX., No. 5.

[2] SCIENCE, Vol. XXXIII., No. 857.

[3] *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science*, Vol. 55, No. 220.

[4] *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, Vol. 9.

[5] *Proc. Royal Soc.*, Vol. 72. This reference, correctly given here and in my earlier paper (1909), is incorrectly given as Vol. 22 in my second article (1910) and in Kepner's paper as well.

[6] *Ibid.*

gulfing a certain number of nettles, metamorphose directly into cnidocysts.

On page 275 Professor Kepner quotes Grosvenor through me, and adds "likewise no one can have witnessed the discharge of nematocysts of *Microstoma* when stimulated by pressure or acetic acid without looking upon them as organs of defense." Yet both Cuênot[7] and I proved that the defensive value of the nettles is slight if not negligible, whereas in 1909[8] I showed that under certain conditions (pressure, acetic acid) the discharge of nettles, even when enclosed in mother tissues or in eolids, may be no more the outcome of physiological stimulation than the explosion of a pistol is the result of a "stimulated" trigger.

In conclusion, Professor Kepner raises the question whether eolids have "acquired their method of dealing with nematocysts of cœlenterates through flatworm ancestry." To any one acquainted with the relationships, not only of molluscs, but of the particular ones under discussion, this question is a bit surprising, for not only is the supposed flatworm ancestry of the mollusca exceedingly problematical, but gastropods are not primitive molluscs, nor are nudibranchs primitive gastropods. One would certainly expect indications of the "nematocyst-habit" in primitive forms if there were any reasonableness in the phylogenetic point of view as applied to this problem.

Otto C. Glaser
Marine Biological Laboratory,
Woods Hole, Mass.,
June 22, 1911

DOUBLE MUTANTS IN SILKWORMS

To the Editor of Science: Referring to Professor Kellogg's interesting report on "Double Mutants in Silkworms," in Science of May 19, 1911, I would call attention to the fact that in his original publication the puzzling data regarding the inheritance of the white cocoon character is made clear by the assumption of two kinds of white, one dominant to color, the other recessive to color. In some of his original data certain individuals were evidently heterozygote for these two kinds of color. The recognition of both a dominant and a recessive white will also explain some of the puzzling phenomena reported in the more recent data.

W. J. Spillman

EXPLODED THEORIES AND THEOLOGICAL PREJUDICE

These are expressions used in Professor White's review of the new edition of "The Ice Age in North America." The exploded theories mentioned are "the Calaveras skull," "the Lansing man" and "the Nampa figurine." The error concerning the Calaveras skull figured by Whitney is freely granted in the book. But that there was a skull found as described, and other remains of man, in the auriferous gravels is still supported by a sufficient amount of convincing evidence to command attention.

As to the Nampa figurine, I am not aware that any one has brought anything but theoretical considerations to bear against the evidence originally collected by Charles Francis Adams and his associates immediately after its purported discovery; while the theoretical considerations are based, as I have shown, upon misunderstanding of the geological conditions. The cataclysm connected with the bursting of the upper barriers of Lake Bonneville, and the pouring of its waters into the Snake River valley must be reckoned with before the conditions reported at Nampa are set down as incredible.

The facts relating to the Lansing man are, I think, sufficiently set forth in the book to, at least, merit attention. If we are to accept every attempt to explode a theory as successful we shall soon come to a standstill in our discussions.

As to theological prepossessions, I only remark that it is as easy to impute *anti-theological* prepossessions, as to suspect theological bias. In any event the facts themselves should not be overlooked. Let us have fair play.

G. Frederick Wright
Oberlin, O.,
June 17, 1911

[7] *Arch. de Zool. Exp.*, 4e S., T. 6.
[8] *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, Vol. IV.