

be accomplished. We are yet surrounded by innumerable mysteries, which can only be solved by persistent research. Not all men are fitted by temperament or training to engage in this great work, but more are thus fitted, I am sure, than are awakened to its opportunities. For those of you who are ready, here is a challenge to the supreme use of all your powers—to your imagination, your ingenuity, your patience and enthusiasm, and to your spirit of disinterested service.

W. B. CANNON

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

#### THE CONDUCT OF THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY

THE committee on personnel of the department of agriculture, composed of W. M. Hays, assistant secretary; George P. McCabe, solicitor, and C. C. Clark, chief clerk, have made to the secretary of agriculture a report on the engagement of Dr. H. H. Rusby as pharmacognosist in which they come to the following conclusion:

That Drs. Wiley, Bigelow and Rusby, throughout the negotiations for the readjustment of Dr. Rusby's salary, had in view the purpose to restore Dr. Rusby's rate of compensation to \$20 per diem for days actually employed, thus to retain his expert services both in the laboratory and in court, which services were highly valued by the Bureau of Chemistry; to accomplish this purpose they made a secret arrangement, and, through Dr. Wiley, proposed to the Secretary of Agriculture the appointment of Dr. Rusby at a legal rate per annum, without disclosing to the Secretary that Dr. Rusby was in fact to be paid at an illegal rate, different from the rate specified in the appointment.

Based upon this report, the committee submits the following recommendations:

1. That Dr. H. H. Rusby, pharmacognosist in the Bureau of Chemistry at \$1,600 per annum, be dismissed from the service, on account of irregularities in connection with his appointments and recommendation for appointment of Dr. William Mansfield as unskilled laborer.

2. That Dr. L. F. Kebler, chief of drug laboratory in the Bureau of Chemistry, be reduced from

his present position as chief of the drug laboratory to a position and status in which he will have no authority to make recommendations regarding the salaries or periods of service of other employees, on account of irregular conduct in procurement of services of Dr. H. H. Rusby.

3. That Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, and Dr. W. D. Bigelow, assistant chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, be given an opportunity to resign from the positions which they now hold in the Bureau of Chemistry, on account of irregularities in appointments of Dr. H. H. Rusby.

The attorney-general has recommended to President Taft the approval of the findings of the committee. It does not, however, appear to be likely that President Taft will dismiss Dr. Wiley, Dr. Bigelow and Dr. Rusby, for an alleged technical violation of the law. Dr. Rusby is a botanist and student of *materia medica* of high distinction and dean of the College of Pharmacy of Columbia University. If he was employed at a salary of \$1,600 a year by the government, it was known to every one that he did not devote his entire time to government work. Dr. Wiley should be reprimanded if he has permitted a technical violation of the law, and the law should be altered so that scientific experts can be employed by the government on part time at a reasonable salary. And the president and the congress may very well take the opportunity to express their appreciation of what Dr. Wiley has accomplished for the public health.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR L. H. BAILEY has tendered to the trustees of Cornell University his resignation as director of the New York State College of Agriculture. He has made no public statement about the matter except to admit that it is his intention to retire from teaching.

SURGEON-GENERAL WYMAN has appointed Dr. E. C. Franklin, since 1903 professor of organic chemistry at Stanford University, to be professor of chemistry in the hygienic laboratory of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

THE director of the Museo Nacional, Mexico, Sr. Garcia has resigned and Sr. Robelo

has been appointed in his place. Sr. Batres, inspector of antiquities, is succeeded by Sr. Rodriguez.

PROFESSOR CLYDE FURST, secretary of Teachers College, Columbia University, since 1902, has become secretary of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, succeeding Mr. John G. Bowman, who has become president of the University of Iowa.

THE Society of German Chemists has awarded the Adolf Baeyer plaque in gold and the interest of the Duisberg foundation to Professor Paul Friedländer, of Darmstadt, and the Liebig medal to Professor Paul Ehrlich, of Frankfurt.

THE South African medal and fund has been awarded by the South African Association for the Advancement of Science to Dr. F. Peringuey, director of the museum at Capetown.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the connection of Dr. Carlo Reymond, professor of ophthalmology, with the medical faculty of the University of Turin, was celebrated on May 18, when a *Festschrift* was presented to him.

A PRIZE, to be known as the Professor Van Amringe mathematical prize, has been established at Columbia University, in honor of Professor Van Amringe, who last year retired from the head of the department of mathematics, after a service of fifty years. The prize has been endowed with \$2,500 by Mr. George G. De Witte, '67, and is to be awarded to the student who is most proficient in mathematics during the first two years of the college course.

THE gasoline schooner *Polar Bear* arrived at Nome, Alaska, on July 12, having picked up on the way north A. C. Bent, Rolla H. Beck and Fred McKenzie, members of an expedition sent out by the Smithsonian Institution to gather specimens in the Aleutian Islands.

THE governor of Pennsylvania has appointed the following persons as the commission for the investigation and control of the chestnut tree blight in Pennsylvania: Mr. Samuel T. Bódine, of Villa Nova, Pa., vice-

president of the United Gas Improvement Co.; Mr. George F. Craig, of Rosemont, Pa., of the firm of George F. Craig & Co., Philadelphia; Mr. Theodore N. Ely, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., superintendent of motive power of the Pennsylvania Railroad; Harold Peirce, of Haverford, Pa., agent New York Life Insurance Co., and Mr. Winthrop Sargent, of Haverford, Pa.

A NOTABLE addition to the facilities offered by Paris as a center of anthropological research is the Institute of Human Paleontology recently founded by the Prince of Monaco. In the new institute the Abbé H. Breuil, formerly of the University of Fribourg, occupies the chair of prehistoric ethnography and Dr. H. Obermaier, a former colleague of Professor Hoernes at Vienna, that of geology in its relation to prehistory. Professor M. Boule, of the Museum of Natural History, Jardin des Plantes, is the director.

THE South African Association for the Advancement of Science held its ninth annual meeting at Bulawayo from the third to the eighth of July, under the presidency of Professor P. D. Hahn. The association meets in four sections as follows: *Section A*: Astronomy, mathematics, physics, meteorology, geodesy, surveying, engineering, architecture and irrigation—president, Rev. E. Goetz. *Section B*: Chemistry, geology, metallurgy, mineralogy and geography—president A. J. C. Molyneux. *Section C*: Bacteriology, botany, zoology, agriculture, forestry, physiology, hygiene and sanitary science—president E. A. Nobbs. *Section D*: Anthropology, ethnology, education, history, mental science, philology, political economy, sociology and statistics—president, G. Duthie.

THE fortieth meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science will, as we have noted, be held this year at Dijon from July 31 to August 5, with M. Charles Lallemand as president. The sections of the association and their presidents are given in *Nature*. They are as follows: M. E. Belot, mathematics, astronomy, geodesy, mechanics; M. Galliot, navigation (civil and military), engineering; Professor Hurion, physics; Pro-

fessor Georges Lemoine, chemistry; Professor Violle, meteorology and physics of the globe; Professor Collot, geology and mineralogy; Professor Quéva, botany; Professor Bataillon, zoology, anatomy, physiology; Dr. Henri Martin, anthropology; Dr. Paul Courmont, medical science; Dr. Delherm, medical electricity; Professor Grimaud, odontology; M. Lucien Magnien, agriculture; M. Auguste Chevalier, geography; M. Paul Razous, political economy and statistics; Professor Beauvisage, pedagogy and teaching; Professor Jules Courmont, hygiene and state medicine; Dr. Simon, archeology. Inquiries may be addressed to the secretary of the association, Dr. Desgrez, 28 rue Serpente, Paris.

PROFESSOR BENJAMIN FRANKLIN THOMAS, professor of physics at the Ohio State University since 1885, died on July 4, at Boothbay Harbor, Me., after a short illness, at the age of sixty-one years.

THE death is reported, at the age of seventy-three years, of Mr. J. D. Hooker, of Los Angeles, who took an active interest in astronomy, and gave to the Mount Wilson Observatory the 100-inch mirror now being ground for it.

THE council of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland sent to the recent Imperial Conference in London a memorial urging the establishment of an Imperial Bureau of Anthropology. The proposal is that the bureau should be established in London and that it should be managed by a committee composed of the council of the Royal Anthropological Institute and representatives of the governments of the British Dominions, of the Indian and Colonial Offices, and of those universities in Great Britain, in India and the colonies and dependencies of the empire where anthropology is systematically studied.

MR. E. W. HUNNYBUN has presented to the Cambridge University his collection of drawings of the flowering plants of the British Isles, including 1,700 species and varieties. They are to be used to illustrate a new British flora by Mr. C. E. Moss, which will be pub-

lished by the University Press. After the drawings have been used in this way, they are, with the letters of identification, to be preserved in the university herbarium.

*Nature* states that the arrangements for the meeting of the International Association of Seismology are now nearly complete. The following foreign states will be represented: United States, France, Russia, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Greece, Italy, Holland, Rumania, Servia, Bulgaria and probably also Japan and Norway. At the opening meeting on July 18 the lord mayor of Manchester and the vice-chancellor of the university will welcome the delegates, and Professor Schuster, as president, will deliver a short address. On the same day the lord mayor will hold a reception in the Town Hall. The council of the university will give a dinner, and Dr. Shaw, the director of the Meteorological Office, will invite the guests to an excursion to view the observatory at Eskdalemuir. Among British men of science, the following have signified their intention of being present: Sir George Darwin, Dr. Milne, Professor Perry, Professor Lamb, Professor Knott, Professor Love, Mr. Oldham, Dr. Shaw and Dr. G. W. Walker.

CAPTAIN C. G. RAWLING lectured on July 3, as we learn from *Nature*, before the Royal Geographical Society on the geographical results of the British expedition in Dutch New Guinea, which was organized by the British Ornithologists' Union, and was led by Mr. Goodfellow until illness compelled his return. The dense tropical jungle of the low plain between the mountains and the coast, the heavy rainfall and the sickness which incapacitated their carriers, prevented the travelers from reaching the higher portions of the range, but the scientific results, zoological, ethnographical and geographical, are most valuable. Captain Rawling and Dr. Marshall stayed for some time with the pygmy tribes of the lower hill ranges, and obtained much information concerning their customs, habits and general character.

THE *American Museum Journal* announces that three very important anthropological col-

lections have been purchased. One from the Jesup Fund, is a series of rare objects from the Tsimshian Indians of the North Pacific coast collected by Lieutenant G. T. Emmons. This fills practically the only gap in our series from that important culture area. The second collection, made by Dr. Carl Lumholtz, in the little-known borderland along the Mexican boundary of Arizona, was purchased from the Primitive Peoples of the Southwest Fund. Among the unusual pieces in this collection are the costumes of a fool dancer, consisting of a mask, a crude and useless bow and other absurd trappings. This is of especial interest since this ceremonial character seems to connect the Papago culture with that of the Plains. Among other things may be mentioned a series of wooden plows introduced into Mexico from Europe by the early Spanish explorers. The Papago are the southern representatives of the Pima stock and were found still practising the art of basketry for which the Pima proper were at one time famous. The collection contains excellent samples of this almost extinct textile art. The third acquisition, gained through the Jesup Fund, is the General U. S. Hollister collection of Navajo blankets. In this series there are sixty-six pieces, some made before 1850. In materials and dyes there is a full representation: eleven blankets of bayeta, one of natural wool, eight of native dyes, seven of Germantown yarn, twelve of other commercial yarn, and eighteen in aniline dyes. The four varieties of weave practised by the Navajo are fully represented. There are also a few exceptional blankets, one of which represents in its design the Corn God copied from the sand paintings of altars of the Navajo. This collection, jointly with the series recently presented by Mrs. Sage and those belonging to the Lenders and Tefft collections recently presented by Mr. Morgan, give us a series of Navajo textiles fully representative both as to technique and design.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Reading, England, has received an endowment fund of \$1,000,000.

The donors are Lady Wantage \$250,000, Mr. George William Palmer and Mrs. Palmer \$500,000, and Mr. Alfred Palmer, \$250,000.

It is announced in European journals that a new Russian university has been founded in Rostov on Don. The medical course will begin the coming fall. In Jellaterinburk will be established an academy of mines, and in Voronez and Samara academies of agriculture.

WE are requested to announce that a vacancy has recently occurred in the position of assistant professor of zoology in the College of Medicine and Surgery in the University of the Philippines. The entrance salary is \$2,000 a year, but if a man of exceptional ability is secured as much as \$2,500 might be given. It is expected that the holder of this position will engage in research work, and there are zoological problems of great interest that can be investigated in the Philippine Islands.

PROFESSOR LAENAS GIFFORD WELD has resigned his position as head of the department of mathematics in the State University of Iowa. He resigned the deanship of the College of Liberal Arts two years ago, soon after the accession of the present State Board of Education.

DR. ADOLPH I. RINGER, of the department of medicine of Cornell University, has been appointed instructor in physiological chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania.

At Ohio State University John H. Schaffner, associate professor of botany, has been advanced to the position of professor of botany and head of the department.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE IMPORT OF VITALISM

PROFESSOR JENNINGS'S communication concerning "Vitalism and Experimental Investigation,"<sup>1</sup> like everything that he writes, does much to clarify the subject of which it treats. Yet I can not but think that some corners of the question still remain in a rather beclouded condition. It is apparent, at all events, that

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, June 16, 1911.