

only too frequently reflected in the attitude of local authorities, some of the most important of whom give far less than their proper share of support to the universities, and in one or two instances the maintenance at their present level of the grants made by local education authorities has been endangered. For the financial year 1909-10 the amount of grant actually paid by the treasury to university colleges in England was £96,100, and for the year 1910-11 £101,250. In the year 1909-10 £15,000 was added to the grant in aid of university education in Wales. Dealing with the problem of university education in the metropolis, the introductory report dwells on the need for a proper scheme of coordination, which it holds to be especially urgent in the case of higher technological and professional work, and declares that until the problem has been adequately dealt with it is almost impossible to deal wisely with even the most urgent claims for further development. With regard to finance, the report shows that nearly 33 per cent. of the income of English colleges is derived from fees, about 15 per cent. from endowments, a little over 14.5 per cent. from grants from local education authorities and 28 per cent. from the exchequer.

For an anthropological research expedition to the islands of Normandy, Fergusson and Goodenough, in British New Guinea, as we learn from the *London Times*, funds are being provided out of the Oxford University common fund and by several of the colleges. The work has been undertaken by Mr. David Jenness, of Balliol College, who proposes, unaccompanied, to spend a year amongst people who are admittedly cannibals. It is stipulated by the university, in contributing to the expedition, that the museum shall have the first offer of articles of interest which may be obtained. Assistance has been promised by the missionaries on Goodenough Island, including the use of a boat and native oarsmen. The first few weeks will be spent in cruising around the islands endeavoring to get on friendly terms with the people and in studying the trade relations. As the natives have sea-going canoes and trade with the neighboring coast and the island of Trobriand, 100

miles away, Mr. Jenness will endeavor to obtain the good will of one of the chiefs and settle down for about a year. Later he will proceed on a mission boat to Rossell Island, at the eastern end of the Louisiade Archipelago, to study some ethnological problems concerning the relationships of Oceanic peoples. Mr. Jenness has been provided with the latest scientific instruments, including a phonograph for recording native songs and speech.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Institute of Anatomy of the Jefferson Medical College, erected at a cost of \$125,000, by Mr. Daniel Baugh, was dedicated on September 26. Addresses were made by Dr. E. A. Spitzka, professor of applied anatomy in the college, and Dr. George A. Piersol, professor of anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania.

THE late Dr. William Flynn, of Marion, has willed his entire estate, valued at about \$30,000, to the Indiana Medical College, in which he was a member of the faculty for many years.

AMONG the public bequests made by Mr. George M. Pullman was that of \$1,200,000 for founding and endowing the Pullman Free School of Manual Training at Pullman, Ill. This fund has increased to more than \$2,500,000. The first step toward founding the school was the purchase, in 1908, of a campus of forty acres within the limits of the town of Pullman at a cost of \$100,000. Mr. Laenas Gifford Weld, until recently professor of mathematics and dean of the faculty of liberal arts in the Iowa State University, was appointed principal in May and entered upon his new duties September 1. He will visit the leading technical and trade schools in this country and in Europe before the preparation of definite plans is undertaken.

THE medical department of Tulane University announces the inauguration of a department of tropical medicine, hygiene and preventive medicine, beginning October 1, in charge of Dr. Creighton Wellman and staff. Laboratory courses, clinics and lectures will be given in the regular junior and senior classes;

in addition graduate courses are offered, for which certificates will be issued, counting toward special degrees to be created.

A NEW university is to be founded at Perth, Western Australia. Mr. Cecil Andrews, who represents the commission charged with carrying out the project, is at present visiting the universities of this country.

DR. GEORGE H. DENNY, president since 1902 and previously professor of Latin at Washington and Lee University, has been elected president of the University of Alabama.

DR. A. S. PEARSE goes to the St. Louis University School of Medicine as associate professor of biology.

At the University of Maine, Mr. Earle O. Whittier has been appointed instructor in chemistry and Mr. Clayton Urey, instructor in physics.

New appointments in the faculty for the University of Montana for 1911-12 are as follows: Honorable John B. Clayberg, honorary dean and professor of Montana practise and mining irrigation law; H. W. Ballantine, acting dean and professor of law; Philip S. Biegler, assistant professor of electrical engineering; George H. Cunningham, instructor in mechanical engineering; G. A. Gross, instructor in engineering shops.

THE faculty of Middlebury College, Vermont, has increased from twelve to twenty-five in the last four years. There are eight new instructors this year, all but two of them filling new positions. These include: Avery E. Lambert, Ph.D., assistant professor of zoology, from the State Normal School, Framingham, Mass.; C. Allan Lyford, A.M., assistant professor of geology from Clark College; George H. Cresse, A.M., assistant professor of mathematics; Ray L. Fisher, assistant professor of physical education and director of athletics; Irving W. Davis, instructor in pomology.

DR. DUNCAN GRAHAM has been appointed lecturer on bacteriology at the University of Toronto.

DR. ALEX. FINDLAY, special lecturer at the University of Birmingham, has been appointed professor of chemistry in the University of Wales at Aberystwyth.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### A CARBONIFEROUS FLORA IN THE SILURIAN?

UNDER the caption "The Oldest Silurian Flora" Dr. G. F. Matthews<sup>1</sup> has recently set forth geological conclusions and correlations, which, if true, mean nothing less than the condition implied by the above title.

History shows, even in the literature of geology and paleontology, that if error be reiterated with sufficient frequency and vociferation it will, unless disproved or controverted, gradually gain credence and eventually tacit acceptance. Sometimes, therefore, as in the present instance, so persistent is the erroneous utterance, it unfortunately becomes necessary to repeat the protest; and in order that the paleobotanical misinformation contained in Dr. Matthews's last article may not, as in some preceding instances, find unopposed entrance to the text-books, the common dogma of geology, it obviously becomes somebody's unpleasant duty to challenge his conclusions. This I regretfully do, the seemingly inane title of this note being an epitome of the issue.

It concerns mainly the flora and the age of the "fern ledges"—the "Cordaitea shale" and the "Dadoxylon sandstones"—at St. John and Lepreau, near the Bay of Fundy, which Sir William Dawson more than forty years ago referred to the Devonian, and which Matthews now declares are, in part at least, Silurian. Soon after the publication of Dawson's papers mild protests were offered by Geinitz and several others at placing beds with such distinctly Carboniferous plants and insects in the Devonian. About thirty years later, when both the Devonian and the Carboniferous floras were far better known and their stratigraphic significance more definitely determined, opposition was again made by Mr. Robert Kidston, the highest British authority on the Paleozoic floras, and myself, each of whom had examined collections from the disputed beds. Each, wholly without knowledge of the other's views, at once referred the flora to the Carboniferous, both regarding the plants as probably belonging

<sup>1</sup> *Bull. Nat. Hist. Soc. New Brunswick*, No. 28, 1910, pp. 241-249.