New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital. The director is Jonathan Wright, M.D. (Columbia), and the staff includes—tropical medicine, in collaboration with the medical departments of the Army and Navy: James M. Phalen, M.D. (Illinois), captain Medical Corps, U. S. A., F. M. Shook, M.D. (Michigan), P. A. Surg., U. S. N.; bacteriology: Ward J. MacNeal, Ph.D., M.D. (Michigan), Richard M. Taylor, M.D. (Michigan); pathology: Ward J. MacNeal, Ph.D., M.D., Oliver S. Hillman, M.D. (McGill); biochemistry: Victor C. Myers, Ph.D. (Yale), M. S. Fine, Ph.D. (Yale).

Cornell University Medical College opened with an enrolment as follows: For the degree of M.D.: first year, 32; second year, 23; third year, 20; fourth year, 11. Special students (work not leading to the degree), 19. Doctors of medicine engaged in research, 9. A total of 114. There is a loss in numbers as compared with the preceding year which is due to the fact that all matriculants for the degree of M.D. now registered are admitted under the advanced requirements necessitating the presentation of a bachelor's degree in science or arts, together with something more than one year's work in physics, chemistry and biology. With the exception of those first-year students at Ithaca who are pursuing the combined seven-years' course leading to the degree of A.B. and M.D. all students now registered in this college are graduates in arts, science or medicine.

Dr. Harlan H. York (Hopkins '11), formerly instructor in botany at the University of Texas, has been made associate professor of botany at Brown University, in charge of the department.

At the Colorado School of Mines, George W. Schneider takes the position of professor of mining and Carl A. Allen that of assistant professor of mining. Both are practical mining men and former graduates of the school.

Mr. B. Tatarian, formerly instructor in the University of Illinois, has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry in the University of Arizona.

Carl L. Rahn, Ph.D. (Chicago), of the University of Pittsburgh, has been appointed instructor in psychology in the University of Minnesota.

At the University of Texas Dr. N. H. Brown succeeds Dr. A. C. Scott as head of the School of Electrical Engineering. Newly appointed instructors are: In physics, Dr. H. L. Brown, of California, succeeding Dr. C. L. Shuddemagen; in zoology, Dr. A. Richards, of Princeton; in electrical engineering, J. W. Ramsey, of Texas.

Dr. Karl Linsbauer, of Czernowitz, has been appointed professor of the anatomy and physiology of plants at the University of Gratz.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE NEEDS OF METEOROLOGY

The session of the German Meteorological Society, held at Munich, October 2, included memoirs of general interest. Among these that by Professor Moeller, of Brunswick, appeals especially to Americans. His theme was the same as that which I have so often presented to American audiences, namely, "The Need of the Establishment of an Institute for Theoretical Meteorology."

For forty years I have indulged the hope that some intelligent American merchant would show his appreciation of the successful efforts of the practical meteorologists of our unrivalled Weather Bureau, and would establish a school of meteorology comparable with our great schools of astronomy, engineering, etc. But now I fear that Dr. Moeller's address may result in the founding of the German Institute that he wishes, long before our American establishment is under way.

The money value of meteorology began to be realized by American merchants when Maury studied the winds and currents and shortened the voyages of American clippers by 50 or 100 days. The money value of the modern Weather Bureau has been recognized during every storm and blizzard and frost and flood since January, 1871. The future of aerial

voyages, the hoped-for success of the aeroplane in war and in peace, the development of agriculture, the safety of our vessels, all depend on our knowledge of the atmosphere, and our anticipation of its vagaries.

We have done wonders on land and sea, on the mountains and underneath the oceans, but we have scarcely begun to appreciate what we may do in the atmosphere. We may not change its winds, its rains and snows, but we may learn to utilize them to advantage. The investment of a half million dollars in one laboratory, with its physicists and mathematicians devoted to research in the physics and mechanics of the atmosphere, would do for meteorology as much as the wonderful observatory at Mount Wilson is doing for astronomy.

One hundred years ago James Smithson of England entrusted his fortune to the United States as executor of his will, and from that evidence of his faith in America, innumerable benefits have followed. How long will it be before meteorology receives a corresponding attention?

The state of New York has furnished such men as Myer from Buffalo, Henry from Albany, Redfield from New York—eminent students who died without realizing their fondest hopes. Americans are profiting unconsciously by their labors in meteorology. Will they not invest 1 per cent. of their earnings in the promotion of an institute devoted to man's progress in this important science? They can do nothing better for humanity.

C. ABBE

MORE BOTANICAL ERRORS

PROFESSOR NEWCOMBE'S communication entitled "Professor Punnett's Error," on page 442 of the present volume of SCIENCE, prompts me to call attention to the fact that Punnett is not the only zoological writer who displays ignorance of elementary botanical facts. Two books in common use in our universities exhibit the same error as Mr. Punnett's book. One of these, "The First Principles of Heredity," by Dr. Herbert, contains the following exposition (page 21): "Among plants we find male and female germ-cells in all flowering species—the former, the pollen-grain, being developed in the anther of the stamen of the flower; the latter, the ovule, lying in the ovary, to which the pistil leads. Most flowers possess both sexual organs, stamen as well as pistil; . . ." It will be sufficient to point out three of the patent misconceptions in this extract: (1) the pollen-grain and ovule are not germ-cells; (2) the stigma or style, not the pistil, leads to the ovary, which is itself part of the pistil; (3) stamen and pistil are not sexual organs, for they bear *asexual* spores. The second work referred to is E. Davenport's "Principles of Breeding." On page 161, speaking of the ovum, the writer says "Its equivalent in plants is the ovule." In the next paragraph the writer says that the spermatozoon is "the functional equivalent of the pollen grain of plants." The errors here involve the same misconception as in the first case, but are less serious.

Botanists of course regret that the term ovary should have been wrongly applied to the sac which contains megasporangia, but the usage seems to be here to stay, and certain of our zoological brethren might well consult a dictionary when dealing with botanical topics.

M. A. CHRYSLER

"WASHINGTON SCIENCE"

UNDER the above caption which is assumed to have "depreciatory significance," "Washingtonian" "who has spent nearly half a century in scientific work, under government auspices" writes[1] defending government scientists.

It is with pleasure that I endorse every statement of his article and in many cases I could add much more of commendation from my personal knowledge. It is suggested that "outsiders" can help if they will to promote the ideal service, hence I have attempted to define what "depreciatory significance" the above title might have in my mind and to suggest a remedy.

It seems to me that the difficulty is one of

[1] SCIENCE, N. S., XXXIV., 405, September 29, 1911.