

RECENT scientific appointments at West Virginia are: Wm. H. Alderman, formerly of the Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., to be professor of horticulture; Isaac S. Cook, formerly of Ohio State University, to be associate professor of agronomy; Roland P. Davis, formerly of Cornell University, to be associate professor of structural and hydraulic engineering; E. Dwight Sanderson, dean of the College of Agriculture, to be also, beginning January 1, 1912, director of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

DR. HAROLD E. EGGERS, of the Memorial Institute for Infectious Diseases, Chicago, has accepted an appointment as professor of pathology in the Harvard Medical School of China in Shanghai and will enter on his duties as such on February 1, 1912.

MRS. H. C. MCPHERSON has been made instructor in botany at the Oregon Agricultural College. Mrs. McPherson, who is the wife of Dr. H. C. McPherson, of the political economy department, held a graduate scholarship in botany at the University of Chicago until 1909, when she went to Michigan Agricultural College as instructor in botany.

DAVIS SPENCE HILL, Ph.D. (Clark), recently professor of psychology and education in the University of Tennessee, has been elected to a similar position at Tulane University.

MR. T. G. BEDFORD, M.A., Sidney Sussex, has been appointed demonstrator of experimental physics, and Mr. J. A. Crowther, M.A., St. John's, and Mr. H. Thirkill, B.A., Clare, assistant demonstrators of experimental physics, at Cambridge University.

DR. EUGEN KURZ, of the University of Münster, has been appointed head of the anatomical laboratory of the German medical schools at Shanghai.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE EXILED NATURALISTS OF PORTUGAL

A DOCUMENT has recently been circulated, bearing the names of twelve Portuguese naturalists,¹ who have been exiled from their

¹ A. Luisier, A. O. Pinto, A. Redondo, A. Silvano, C. Torrend, C. Mendes, K. Zimmermann, J. S.

country by the new government, "on the pretext that they are Jesuits." Five have gone to Brazil, three to Belgium, two to Spain and two to Holland. These men were professors in the colleges of S. Fiel and Campolide, in Lisbon, and were known for their work in different branches of biology, and especially for the journal *Brotéria*, which they published. Perhaps the best known is J. S. Tavares, but it appears that all had done work on the fauna and flora of Portugal. In the course of years, they had established an excellent library of works on natural history, a laboratory for microscopic work, and had accumulated large collections, especially of Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, gall-insects and botanical specimens. The government ordered the arrest of these professors, and confiscated all their scientific possessions. "Nos livres, nos revues, nos instruments, nos collections, nos manuscrits, même les plus intimes, nous les avons perdus!" Two commissions were appointed, it seems, to discuss the questions involved. That on S. Fiel, where the principal collections were, did not include a single naturalist; instead, it consisted of a veterinarian, a physician, a professor and two lawyers, presided over by a particular enemy of the college. The Minister of Justice said to one of the arrested men, "If your collections are lost to you, they are not lost to science." Unfortunately, however, the collections were accumulated for special ends, and it will not be possible for others to make the best use of them. In many cases the specimens are not labeled, and in others they are marked with numbers, abbreviations, etc., intelligible only to their original owners.

"C'est pourquoi, les naturalistes de la *Brotéria* protestent bien haut devant le monde savant contre l'injustice sans nom dont ils sont les victimes; ils protestent au nom de leurs droits violés, ils protestent au nom de la science!"

It is probable that there is another side to this question, but granting the accusations of their enemies, that they are Jesuits, and (I suppose) opposed to a republican form of government, J. S. Tavares, J. Foulquier, M. Martins, M. Rebimbas, P. Vieilledent.

ernment, there is still no justification for the action taken in depriving them of their scientific materials. No doubt the government claims that all these things belong to the colleges, and not at all to the particular men; but while this may be true in a sense, all scientific men will agree that they had rights in the matter which have been apparently ignored.

Would it be possible for some representative scientific body to appoint and pay the expenses of a man who would enquire into all the facts, and furnish a carefully considered report? Should such a plan be contemplated, preliminary enquiries might be made to see whether the case of the exiles was apparently good. If the report supported the exiles, organized protests from the scientific bodies of different countries might be appropriate.

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"DOMESTICATED ANIMALS AND PLANTS"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I write to correct an impression made by Professor Cockerell's criticism of "Domesticated Animals and Plants" in SCIENCE, issue of October 27. The impression left by this article is that the errors he mentions are to remain uncorrected, whereas the facts are they were corrected months ago.

I have no desire to discuss the criticisms made further than to relate how the unpardonable error as to the types of pigeons occurred, which may be of interest to the psychologist if not to other scientists. The manuscript was submitted in advance of publication to a number of individuals, and every attempt was made to utilize and harmonize the criticisms and suggestions. This resulted in the practical reorganization of the copy. My original intention had been to use cuts and descriptions of both the rock pigeon and the passenger pigeon, and how the two became so completely confused in the final make-up is a mystery which I have not yet solved. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that for thirty years I had known that the rock pigeon is the foundation of the domesticated types, and the appearance of the plates was,

perhaps, as much of a surprise to me as to others. The only explanation is that the proof was running during my illness and a press of other work, and my own attention was directed chiefly to eliminating the difficulties that had arisen by the rearranging of the text and the references. The publishers are in no wise to blame for this mix-up, for which I accept full responsibility and which was corrected at the first possible moment.

The same remarks apply to the "definitions" mentioned and to one or two other errors not mentioned by Professor Cockerell.

I have only this remark to add; namely, the book was prepared, after repeated suggestions, for boys and girls in the secondary schools and not for the elucidation or even the discussion of such disputed points among scientists as the ramifications of Mendelism or the controversy between biologists and mathematicians. My regret is for the absurd errors that crept into this volume, not for statements that may be disputed when taken out of their connections.

E. DAVENPORT,
Dean and Director

QUOTATIONS

PENSIONS AND THE LEARNED PROFESSIONS

It is part of the undisciplined heritage which we call human nature to assert rights strenuously and assume obligations reluctantly. With the growth of the altruistic spirit, which cultivates thinking in the larger terms of social benefit, the sense of public obligation is gradually and laboriously maturing. There is no idea that stands in greater need of this beneficent socialization than that conveyed by the term "pension." American experience had been peculiarly unfortunate in linking the term with one of the greatest scandals of public extravagance, showing human quality at its worst. It is also unfortunate that the pity extended to old age and poverty and lack of thrift, has enveloped the term in an atmosphere of charity. Foreign examples and an attention to principles should have kept in mind the more dignified sense