UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

CONDITIONAL gifts of $100,000 to Washington and Jefferson College at Washington, Pa., toward a $500,000 fund, and $50,000 to the Emory and Henry College at Emory, Va., toward a $250,000 fund, were voted at a meeting of the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation on January 26. Frederick T. Gates was reelected chairman and Wallace Buttrick, secretary of the board for 1912. These two officers and Robert C. Ogden, Walter H. Page, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Starr J. Murphy and Edgar L. Marston form the executive committee. Jerome D. Greene, business manager of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, was elected a member of the board.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY again has a forestry faculty. One year ago Mr. Walter Mulford, junior professor of forestry in the University of Michigan, was appointed professor of forestry at Cornell, and has been in Ithaca since last summer. This fall Mr. John Bentley, Jr., formerly of the U. S. Forest Service, was appointed assistant professor in the department. And now Professor Filibert Roth, who for the past nine years has been at the head of the forest school at the University of Michigan, has accepted appointment at Cornell as professor of forestry and head of the department. The forestry work is a department of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University. The department plans to give a thorough professional course.

DR. HUGH P. BAKER, professor of forestry at Pennsylvania State College, has been appointed to fill the newly created post of professor of forestry at the University of Illinois.

MR. A. W. NOLAN, of West Virginia University, has been appointed assistant professor of agriculture. Dr. B. E. Powell, formerly private secretary to President James, has been appointed journalist in the College of Agriculture and Experiment Station.

DR. J. B. WOODWORTH has been promoted to an associate professorship of geology at Harvard University.

PROFESSOR W. A. BONE, F.R.S., Leeds University, has been appointed professor of fuel and refractory materials in a new department of applied chemistry now being established in the Imperial College at South Kensington, London.

PROFESSOR HESS, of Würzburg, has received a call as director of the eye clinic of the University of Berlin.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

FORMATION OF CLOUDS OVER FIRES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In your issues of May 15, 1908, and October 23, 1908, there appeared letters describing the formation of clouds observed above the column of smoke from large fires. In the latter letter, by Wm. F. Wallis, no mention of the character of the clouds thus formed is given; I am under the impression that Mr. B. M. Varney, in his letter of May 15, described these clouds as cumulus clouds, but as I have not that number of SCIENCE before me can not now be sure that he did so describe them. If previously noted occurrences of clouds over fires have been of cumulus clouds, it may be of interest to note a formation of a slightly different type.

On the morning of November 16, 1911, the revolutionary forces attacked the city of Foochow, and set fire to the Manchu quarter of the city. The fire burned more or less fiercely for some twenty-four hours. About 1:05 P.M. on the 9th, when the air temperature was 70°, the relative humidity 52 per cent., and the sky otherwise cloudless, there appeared at the top of the smoke column rising from the city a white cloud closely resembling the fracto-cumulus. The cloud maintained its position over the column of smoke for only a very few minutes, and then melted away, but was followed some fifteen minutes later by a similar cloud, which soon disappeared. How frequently and at what intervals this formation and disappearance occurred I do not know, but several times later until about 4:30 P.M. similar clouds were observed for a few minutes. These clouds were at about the average height of cumulus clouds, and would seem to have been formed, as Mr. Varney suggests, by

the draft carrying water vapor (in not very large quantities in this case) upwards to a level of cloud formation.

Walter N. Lacy

Foochow, China,
November 11, 1911

ENDOCRYPTA HUNTSMANI

To the Editor of Science: My attention has been called to the fact that the generic name "*Crypta*," used on page 19, in my paper on "The Hydroids of the West Coast of North America," published May 13, 1911, as a bulletin from the Laboratories of Natural History of the State University of Iowa, had previously been applied to another genus. I shall change it, therefore, to "*Endocrypta*," a name that I believe has not been used, and one that is equally significant. The new species described should, therefore, appear as *Endocrypta huntsmani*.

C. McLean Fraser

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The House Fly—Disease-carrier. An account of its dangerous activities and of the means of destroying it. By L. O. Howard, Ph.D. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Company, Publishers. Pp. xx and 1–312; 40 figs. and 1 colored plate.

I am glad Dr. Howard starts his little book with a colored plate illustrating his subject, because it is a good one and because it explains, if we study it carefully, why, when we look at the fly with a good even if low-powered lens, it looks like a pretty combination of soft velvety browns and tans, while if you look at it with the unaided eye you see only a uniform pale gray. There are other, most excellent figures of the house fly, his various parts and stages in the book, a few of them original, most of them from good modern sources, and altogether the book is well and practically illustrated throughout, to the very last sanitary privy.

There is no doubt but that Dr. Howard knows his subject and no doubt either that he who reads it will learn much concerning the fly problem: he will marvel, however, at how much we already know, at how much work has been done throughout the world and at how much is yet unknown and remains to be done.

Dr. Howard gives us the systematic position, the structure and the general development of the house fly, or, as he frequently drops into saying, the typhoid fly, and on these points he speaks with authority and from personal knowledge. In working over in detail the habits of the various stages he brings together the literature of the subject from practically all over the world and makes a very readable account of it indeed. It shows that the house fly has long attracted attention, everywhere.

In dealing with the adult stage, the function of the insect as a disease-carrier comes in for careful consideration and this part of the book is at once the most interesting and valuable. Dr. Howard is fully convinced of the culpability of his culprit, and he marshals the evidence against him in absolutely convincing form. I doubt whether it is possible to read this series of chapters or sections showing the connection between the various germ diseases and their transmission by fly agency without feeling that a genuine conservatism had animated the writer in his investigation. Antagonistic evidence is brought out and explained and a full bibliography of the subject is given.

It is surprising to find that the house fly has no considerable number of natural enemies capable of keeping it in check and that one of our most promising methods of control rests upon a partially unverified statement concerning the insect's life history.

By the lay reader those sections dealing with the practical handling of the pest will have the most careful scrutiny and these sections have been most carefully written. Dr. Howard has not only had personal experience with practical work in Washington; but has probably seen and conferred with every man who has had a real campaign to carry out. He is therefore very conservative in his suggestions and points out difficulties as well as successes. He also points out that actual number of flies alone, no matter how disgusting, is not always indicative of the presence of