

THE tenth annual meeting of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in Port Elizabeth from July 1 to 6, under the presidency of Dr. A. Theiler. The sections and their presidents are as follows: A, astronomy, mathematics, physics, meteorology, geodesy, surveying, engineering, architecture and irrigation, Mr. H. J. Holder; B, chemistry, geology, metallurgy, mineralogy and geography, Professor B. de St. J. van der Riet; C, bacteriology, botany, zoology, agriculture, forestry, physiology, hygiene and sanitary science, Mr. F. W. FitzSimons; D, anthropology, ethnology, education, history, mental science, philology, political economy, sociology and statistics, Mr. W. A. Way.

THE fifth of the Weir Mitchell lectures of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia, was delivered on March 29 in Mitchell Hall, by Dr. William H. Howell, of the Johns Hopkins University, on "The Factors concerned in the Coagulation of Blood and their Variations under Pathologic Conditions."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE board of directors of the Knights of Columbus announces that \$385,000 of a \$500,000 endowment fund for the Catholic University in Washington already is in hand. The income from this fund, the remaining \$115,000 of which has been subscribed, will be used to provide scholarships for fifty students.

THE Berlin correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes that according to the official estimate of the expenses of the Prussian universities, for the fiscal year 1912, they will amount to \$5,016,389 (20,065,556 Marks). Of this amount \$2,202,058 is to be spent for institutes, collections and the university religious services. For salaries, remuneration and other personal expenses of the professors, instructors, officers, assistants and employees \$2,059,466 are allowed and for lodging allowance \$288,687. For the expenses of the academic management \$93,266 are appropriated, for the building expenses \$200,275 and for taxes \$9,868. For contingent expenses \$110,970 are provided,

and \$51,195 are appropriated for relief and stipends. The entire expenses are distributed among the individual universities as follows: Berlin, \$1,184,515; Breslau, \$541,311; Halle, \$546,982; Bonn \$485,146; Kiel, \$482,741; Göttingen, \$463,215; Königsberg, \$411,621; Greifswald, \$366,475; Marburg, \$348,326; Münster, \$168,158, and Braunsberg, \$17,395. The expenses are to be met by the following income: from the state fund, \$3,636,801; from endowments and other funds, \$178,928; interest from capital and the income from real estate, \$119,619, and from their own earnings, \$1,081,039.

PLANS are well under way for the new building for the department of clinical medicine at the University of Wisconsin. The department exists for the purpose of looking after the health of the students in the university. There is a corps of five doctors and four trained nurses who are kept busy ministering to sick students or taking precautionary measures in the case of those exposed to disease. The new building will have ten offices on the first floor for the treatment of common ailments, and in the basement will be a sterilization room and special treatment rooms, fitted up with X-ray machines, baking machines and other special equipment. The value of having a department to look after the health of students is shown by the fact that there have been no epidemic diseases among the students that were not controlled as soon as the first cases appeared, since the establishment of the department. Previous to its establishment, there were a number of bad epidemics among students, the most serious of which was an outbreak of typhoid fever in 1907 which resulted in the death of several students.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the professors of the University of Dijon have unanimously passed a resolution calling for a university congress to organize the French universities more closely and to extend their influence abroad. There has been founded under the auspices of the France-Amérique committee a league to foster French interests in America, which

has for one of its objects to make known to the public of the two Americas the value of French general culture and practical instruction.

DR. CHARLES E. MARSHALL, professor of bacteriology and hygiene in the Michigan Agricultural College, has accepted an appointment as director of the graduate school and professor of microbiology, at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. He will begin his new duties on September 1. The Graduate School of the Massachusetts Agricultural College is an outgrowth of graduate work started under the direction of Professor Charles H. Fernald nearly eleven years ago. Four years ago the school was organized with Professor Fernald as director, and since his retirement Dr. Henry T. Fernald has been acting director. During the existence of the school fifteen men have been given the degree of master of science, and seven, the degree of doctor of philosophy. At the present time sixteen men are enrolled as graduate students. It is the intention of the trustees to develop the activities of the school.

DR. RAYMOND A. PEARSON, recently Commissioner of Agriculture for the state of New York, has accepted the presidency of the Iowa State College of Agriculture at Ames. Dr. Pearson has been granted leave of absence for the summer and will visit agricultural colleges in Europe.

DR. THOMAS McCRAE, A.B., M.D., Toronto, associate professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed professor of medicine in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, to fill the chair vacant by the resignation of Professor James C. Wilson.

At the University of London Professor F. G. Donnan, F.R.S., has been appointed to the chair of general chemistry at University College, in succession to Sir William Ramsay. Dr. L. N. G. Filon, F.R.S., has been appointed to the Goldsmid chair of applied mathematics and mechanics to succeed Professor Karl Pearson, who resigned this chair on his appointment to the Galton chair of eugenics.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ARE HORNS IN SHEEP A SEX-LIMITED CHARACTER?

ARKELL and Davenport in *SCIENCE* for March 8, 1912, answer this question in the affirmative on the basis of certain crosses which they have made between horned and hornless races. In doing so they call in question the authenticity of a statement made by me in a recent publication as follows:

In merino sheep the male has well-developed horns, but the female is hornless; yet if the male is castrated early in life no horns are formed.

They comment thus:

He gives no reference for the last statement; and in view of the variability of the horned condition in the males of the "merinos" the conditions of the experiments would have to be carefully considered before such a result could be accepted as settling the question of the dependence of horns in heterozygous males upon a secretion from the testis.

In reply to this criticism, I beg to say that I gave no authority for the statement in question because I can myself vouch for it. I grew up on a farm where Merino sheep were kept in considerable numbers. From my earliest recollection until I was 21 years old I saw the operation of castration practised each year on 50 or more ram lambs and its effects were perfectly familiar to me. The result is exactly that stated. If the male is castrated early in life, say within a month after birth, no horns develop. If castration has been delayed for two or three months, the horns begin to grow, but castration then promptly arrests their growth. I can recall but one exceptional case in the hundreds that came under my observation. In that case the horns continued to grow for some weeks. When this case was observed, the animal was caught and found to have been imperfectly castrated. A second operation caused cessation of the horn development. My father used registered Atwood Merino rams, and his ewes were pure bred. The ewes were regularly hornless as they are typically in this breed. See figures in Robert Wallace's (1907) "Farm Live Stock of Great Britain," p. 592. The males were as regularly horned, if not castrated. We usually