

various, and especially by its repeated, experiences.

Then came Butler, and, without knowledge of Hering's ideas, and out of a conviction that Darwin's natural selection of fortuitous variations was an absurd explanation of such fit things as instincts and hereditary repetitions, and that Lamarck's explanation of modification of individuals by effort and intent, carried over into racial acquirements by heredity, was a much better one but needed something else to make it complete, he re-invented the conception of biological memory and worked it out to its logical extreme. Just what this extreme is, and what the details of Butler's theory are, I leave to any of my readers interested to find out from Butler's books. For besides the interesting speculations of an intelligent and imaginative man about a subject that has, I am convinced, some real things in it to be found out some day, they will get from their perusal a gentle titillation of shock and amusement, such as the day's duty of "scientific reading" rarely brings.

Since Hering and Butler, have come, of course, Richard Semon with "Die Mneme" and its new, and perhaps useful, terminology for the older ideas, and lastly the blessing of Sir Francis Darwin on the whole idea, as well as on Butler himself, bestowed in his British Association President's address of 1908. But as it is Butler more than biological memory that this letter is meant to call attention to I may stop here. Butler died in 1902, and is only now coming to his hearing.

VERNON L. KELLOGG

LONDON,
February 24

THE DEATH OF NETTIE MARIA STEVENS

At a meeting of the faculty of Bryn Mawr College, held May 6, 1912, it was voted to make the following record in the minutes:

WHEREAS, the faculty of Bryn Mawr College has heard with sincere sorrow of the death of Nettie Maria Stevens, A.B. and A.M. of Leland Stanford Junior University, graduate scholar in biology in Bryn Mawr College 1900-01, president's European fellow 1901-02, resident fellow in biol-

ogy 1902-03, doctor of philosophy of this college in 1903, sometime research fellow in biology, Carnegie research assistant and Alice Freeman Palmer research fellow, and since 1904 as reader and then as associate in experimental morphology, a member of the teaching staff and of the faculty,

Resolved, that we, the faculty of Bryn Mawr College, desire to record our appreciation of her talent for research, of the skill and assiduity with which she carried on difficult investigations, achieving a success that placed her in the very front rank of students of science and gave her a world-wide reputation among workers in biology. No less would we recognize the faithfulness with which as a member of the faculty she responded to every call for her services in teaching or in any general work of the college. We deplore her loss. We honor her memory.

Resolved, that copies of these resolutions be sent to the relatives of Dr. Stevens, to the board of directors and to SCIENCE.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the suggestion of the German emperor, the Berlin Institute for Infectious Diseases will be named in honor of Robert Koch.

THE faculty, students and alumni of the university of California will erect in the museum corridor of the new agricultural hall of the University of California a bronze bust in honor of Dr. Eugene W. Hilgard, emeritus professor of agriculture.

PROFESSOR GRASSET, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of his professorship of medicine at Montpellier, was presented with his bust and a medal.

PHYSICIANS of Philadelphia have been invited to join in honoring the memory of Dr. John Herr Musser by subscribing to the memorial fund to be used to endow the social service department of the University Hospital, Philadelphia, of which he was the founder and president. The will of Dr. Musser provides that if the personal estate reaches \$240,000, the sum of \$15,000 shall be given to the University of Pennsylvania for the endowment of a fellowship in honor of the late Dr. Robert M. Girvin.

THE new medical laboratories for the two years' course in medicine given at the Univer-

sity of North Carolina were opened on May 8. These laboratories present a complete equipment for anatomy, physiology, pathology, histology, pharmacology and the other studies usually included in the first two years' course. Provost Edgar F. Smith, of the University of Pennsylvania, delivered the chief address. The honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred upon Provost Smith, Dr. Charles W. Stiles, in charge of the work of the Rockefeller Hookworm Commission, and Dr. Richard H. Lewis, formerly secretary of the North Carolina Board of Health and president of the National Health Association.

DR. W. P. BRADLEY, professor of chemistry at Wesleyan University, has been granted leave of absence for the year 1912-13, to organize a department of research for the United States Rubber Goods Company.

THE American Philosophical Society has appointed the following delegates to represent it on the occasions designated: The Hon. Charlemagne Tower, at the inauguration of John Grier Hibben as president of Princeton University, on May 11; Dr. Morris Jastrow, Jr., at the fourth Congress on the History of Religions, to meet in Leyden on September 9-13 next; Professor Edward W. Morley, of West Hartford, Conn.; Professor Marston T. Bogert, of New York, and Professor Theo. William Richards, of Cambridge, at the eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry, to be held in Washington and New York, September 4-13 next.

DR. FRANZ BOAS, professor of anthropology in Columbia University and in the University of Mexico, has returned to New York after a winter in Mexico and has immediately sailed for England to attend the Congress of Americanists to be held in London beginning on May 27.

DR. GEORGE BYRON GORDON, director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, has been appointed a delegate to represent the university at the Eighteenth International Congress of Americanists.

PROFESSOR GEORGE H. PARKER, Harvard University, gave the sixth lecture in the

course offered to the students in the department of biology at Trinity College, on the evening of May 2 with the subject, "The Nervous System."

MR. TALCOTT WILLIAMS, director of the School of Journalism of Columbia University, is giving the Phi Beta Kappa address at the universities of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska on May 6 to 9 on "The Old Learning and the New."

PROFESSOR JOSEPH JASTROW, of the University of Wisconsin, will give the commencement address at the Normal School, Emporia, Kansas, on June 5, and also addresses at the opening of the summer school there.

PROFESSOR LILLIEN J. MARTIN, of the psychological department of Stanford University, gave an address on "Ueber die Localisation optischer Vorstellungsbilder" at the Fifth Congress for Experimental Psychology, held in Berlin from April 16 to 19, 1912. Her address appears in full in the April number of the *Monatschrift für Psychiatrie und Neurologie*.

SPECIAL lectures will be given at Kings College, University of London, by Dr. F. W. Mott, F.R.S., on May 20, 27, June 3 and 10, on "Heredity considered from the Point of View of Physiology and Pathology."

THERE will be civil service examinations on June 5, for the position of agricultural propagator in the Philippine Service at a salary of \$1,600; for examiners of surveys in the field service of the Department of Agriculture, at entrance salaries ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500, and for scientific assistants, qualified in farm equipment, in the Bureau of Plant Industry, at salaries of \$1,200 to \$1,400.

THE late Henry Iden bequeathed \$100,000 to Cooper Union, New York City, and among other public bequests \$10,000 each to the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Garden and the New York Zoological Society.

Two eggs of the Great Auk, as we learn from the *London Times*, were sold on April 17 at Mr. J. C. Stevens's rooms in King-

street, Covent Garden, the property of Lady Smyth, of Ashton Court, Somerset, who inherited them from the late Sir J. H. Greville Smyth. The finer of the two was purchased at an auction in Kent, and resold at Stevens's on April 24, 1894, for 180 guineas; it now brought 150 guineas. The second egg, which went for 140 guineas, was purchased with a number of sea-birds' eggs, many years ago, by the late owner, but nothing appears to be known of its earlier history. Both were bought by Mr. Ward. Sir J. H. Greville Smyth had another specimen of the egg (which was sold at Stevens's in 1888 for £225). This was presented by Lady Greville Smyth to the Bristol Museum. A "census" by Mr. Edward Bidwell, in connection with the Great Auk, shows that there are in existence and recorded 80 skins and 73 eggs.

THE Austrian government has purchased for about \$600,000 the only two radium mines at Joachimsthal which were owned by private individuals. It is estimated that the two mines will yield annually about 3 grams of radium. Plans are under way for the development of Joachimsthal as a resort for the treatment of disease by radium.

A GIFT of \$50,000 has been made by a donor who desires his name withheld for the purpose of furthering the work of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene. The same individual has agreed to give \$50,000 more, on condition that the sum of \$200,000 additional be secured. The *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the purpose for which the committee was formed is the study of all matters connected with the commitment, care and after-treatment of the insane. Plans for the study of this subject have been carefully prepared, and it is intended to encourage the formation in the various states of allied but independent societies with similar aims to those of the national committee. A special subcommittee, of which Dr. William L. Russell, superintendent of the Bloomingdale Hospital, is chairman, has been formed to begin the work outlined, and an office has been opened in the

Germania Life Building, New York City. Dr. Thomas W. Salmon, of the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, has been granted leave of absence by the government to undertake this work and has been engaged to conduct the studies outlined by the committee. The newly elected officers are: president, Dr. Llewellys F. Barker, of Johns Hopkins University; vice-presidents, Dr. William H. Welch, of Johns Hopkins Medical School; Dr. Charles P. Bancroft, superintendent of the New Hampshire State Hospital, Concord, N. H.; treasurer, Otto T. Bannard, president of the New York Trust Company; chairman of the executive committee, Dr. George Blumer, dean of Yale Medical School; chairman of the finance committee, Professor Russell H. Chittenden, director of Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University; secretary, Clifford W. Beers, organizer of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of Charles Herbert Pratt, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology receives a large bequest to endow a Pratt school of naval architecture and marine engineering. The income of the estate is to accumulate until the sum of \$750,000 has been reached, though it may be used at the expiration of twenty-one years.

GOVERNOR FOSS has signed the bill passed by the Massachusetts legislature appropriating \$50,000 annually for five years to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The grant is to be extended for an additional five years if in the meantime the institute obtains \$350,000.

AN anonymous benefactor has given \$100,000 to Hamilton College for the erection of a new library building.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has received from Mr. and Mrs. William R. Peters a gift of \$50,000 to establish a fund for engineering research in memory of their son William R. Peters, Jr.

A SECOND gift of \$25,000 to Brown University from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is