

only in the nation, but in the several states, to enact the necessary legislation to safeguard the public health; to limit effectively the labor of women and children; to protect wage-earners engaged in dangerous occupations; to enact comprehensive and generous workmen's compensation laws, in place of the present wasteful and unjust system of employers' liability, and in all possible ways to satisfy the just demand of the people for the study and solution of the complex and constantly changing problems of social welfare."

THE German state returns of births and deaths in 1911 continue to confirm the characteristics of the returns for Prussia. In Württemberg the excess of births over deaths was only about 25,000, as compared with more than 29,000 in 1910, and over 30,000 in previous years. In Württemberg, at any rate, it is recognized that the downward tendency will continue, and the Statistical Office calculates that after 1915 there will be a reduction in the number of children for whom provision has to be made in the elementary schools.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the institute founded by the efforts of Professor His for biologic and therapeutic research on radium in the royal Charité has been opened. The aim of the institution is the investigation of the therapeutic effects of radio-active substances such as radium, mesothorium, radiothorium, etc., and their decomposition products. It possesses laboratories for chemical, zoological and botanical research and a complete equipment for physical measurements. In all there are about fifteen places for research workers. The institute is connected with a polyclinic in which internists, surgeons and other interested specialists will have opportunity to treat patients with radiation apparatus of various forms and strength, emanators for inhalation in closed rooms, apparatus for drinking the emanations, and other forms of application. The institute is founded through a fund appropriated by the Kaiser Wilhelm Society for Scientific Research, as well as by grants from various industrial companies. The management is in

the hands of Privy Councilor His, whose representative is Dr. Gudzent. He is supported by a commission to which Professors Kraus, Orth, Lesser, Hildebrand, Bier, Zuntz, Hertwig, Hahn and Marckwald have assured their cooperation. Also a permanent physicochemical collaborator has been secured.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

As has been stated in *SCIENCE*, the regents of the University of Michigan legislated for the reorganization of graduate studies, by providing for the establishment of an autonomous graduate department, to be governed by its own dean, and by an executive board of seven, together with the president, *ex officio*. The necessary appointments have now been made, as follows: Dr. K. E. Guthe, professor of physics, has been elected to the deanship, while the board is to consist of the president; Dr. M. E. Cooley, dean of the department of engineering; Dr. V. C. Vaughan, dean of the department of medicine; Dr. H. C. Adams, head of the department of political economy; Dr. R. M. Wenley, head of the department of philosophy; Dr. F. N. Scott, head of the department of rhetoric; Professor H. M. Bates, dean of the department of law, and Dr. M. Gomberg, professor of organic chemistry. The new executive will take office on October 1, and will probably devote next year to a thorough consideration of future policy.

WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla, Washington, has received from seven hundred donors a fund amounting to more than \$200,000.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE is to be united with Fordham University, New York City. The St. Francis Xavier grammar and high school will be maintained.

THE new four-year course which has been outlined by the College of Agriculture, of the University of Illinois, has the first year's work prescribed and one half of the work of each semester of the sophomore year. The remainder of the time is given over to specialization in soils, crops, agricultural teaching, horticulture, farm mechanics, dairying or ani-

mal husbandry. A new college circular describing this course will be ready for distribution about the middle of August.

SAMUEL L. BOOTHROYD, assistant professor of topographic and geodetic engineering in the College of Civil Engineering of Cornell University, has resigned to accept the associate professorship of astronomy and mathematics in the University of Washington, succeeding Professor James E. Gould. The trustees have promoted Paul Halladay Underwood, instructor in the college, to the rank of assistant professor and appointed him to the place vacated by Professor Boothroyd. The following appointments have also been made: Ransom E. Somers, instructor in economic geology; E. H. Kennard and T. B. Brown, assistants in physics, and R. A. Gulick, assistant in chemistry.

H. N. PARKER, of the Illinois Experiment Station, will head the division of sanitary dairying of the university next year. Professor B. R. Rickards will enter the employ of an Indianapolis manufacturing firm.

DR. ARTHUR E. HILL, of New York University, has been appointed professor of chemistry and director of the laboratory to succeed Professor Lamb.

GEORGE R. WELLS, Ph.D. (Hopkins, '12), has been appointed instructor in psychology at Oberlin College.

L. R. GEISSLER, Ph.D. (Cornell), has resigned his position as research psychologist in the Physical Laboratory of the National Electric Lamp Association, Cleveland, to become professor of psychology at the University of Georgia. He will organize and direct the new psychological laboratory to be established in connection with the School of Education. The laboratory will occupy seven or eight rooms in George Peabody Hall, the new home of the School of Education now under construction, and will be furnished with all modern equipment.

WILLIAM E. BARROWS, JR., has been appointed professor of electrical engineering at the University of Maine. For the past six

years he has been assistant professor of electrical engineering at the Armour Institute of Technology.

DR. W. H. WARREN, connected during the past year with the department of chemistry of Clark College, has recently been appointed professor of chemistry in Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts.

PROFESSOR CHARLES E. DECKER, M.S. (Chicago), has been appointed assistant professor of geology and biology at Allegheny College.

DR. FRANK ELBERT WHELOCK, instructor in physics in the University of Missouri, has been appointed professor of physics in Mount Allison College, Sackville, New Brunswick.

THE following appointments have been made in consequence of the new grant in the University of London made by the London County Council for the increase of the university professoriate: Dr. J. A. Fleming, D.Sc., F.R.S., professor of electrical engineering (to teach at University College); Dr. Arthur Dendy, D.Sc., F.R.S., professor of zoology (to teach at King's College).

PROFESSOR V. BJERKNES, of the University of Christiania, has been offered the chair of geophysics at Leipzig.

DR. JEAN BRUNHES, professor at Lausanne and Freiburg, has been called to the chair of anthropogeography in the Collège de France.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### "GENES" NOT MADE IN GERMANY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The new version of "genes" in the issue of May 24 carries a reminder of Mark Twain's "jumping frog." Darwin's word *pangen* is taken into German to alter the vowel quantity and then comes back into English accompanied by a superfluous letter and a new system of philology elaborated to justify the "genes" and "pangenes" that adorn the pages of recent publications on genetics.

The custom has been to use Latin transliterations of Greek derivatives, but scientific literature is now to have a more Teutonic flavor. The new system need not be confined