

evidence I believe I can at least say with Mark Twain 'that the report is grossly exaggerated.'"

At the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality, held in Cleveland, the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. L. Emmet Holt, of New York; *president-elect*, Dr. J. Whitridge Williams, of Baltimore; *first vice-president*, Dr. Isaac A. Abt, of Chicago; *second vice-president*, Dr. Arthur D. Baldwin, of Cleveland; *secretary*, Dr. Philip Van Ingen, of New York; *treasurer*, Dr. Austin McLanahan, of Baltimore; *executive secretary*, Miss Gertrude B. Knipp, of Baltimore. The next meeting of the association will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

DR. C. P. STEINMETZ gives each year a lecture in Chicago before a joint meeting of the Chicago Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Electrical Section of the Western Society of Engineers. The lecture this year will be on October 28 and the subject is "Some Problems in Electrical Engineering."

ON the evening of October 3 Professor H. E. Jordan, of the University of Virginia, delivered an address on "Eugenics: the Rearing of the Human Thoroughbred," before the American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality, meeting in Cleveland.

THE Royal Geographical Society, London, proposes to hold on March 17 a meeting commemorative of the centenary of the birth of David Livingstone, when Sir Harry Johnston will give an address and there will be an exhibition of Livingstone relics. At a date not yet fixed Sir Clements Markham will give an address in commemoration of the discovery of the Pacific Ocean in 1513 by Balboa.

THE Rev. Dr. Walter W. Skeat, professor of Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge University, died on October 7 at the age of seventy-seven years.

THE state of Minnesota has engaged Dr. Ernest B. Hoag, a health expert, to travel about the state and demonstrate to the citi-

zens that rational conservation of the mental and physical health of children is possible and practicable with the means already at hand. Three plans are proposed: (1) Organization with a medical officer and a nurse or nurses; (2) organization with a school nurse or nurses only; (3) organization by the employment of a simple non-medical health survey on the part of the teacher only. To make it possible for every community, however small, to possess the necessary technical knowledge, the state board of health will maintain at the state capital a "clearing house of information concerning child hygiene, medical supervision, the teaching of school hygiene and the like."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A HUNDRED thousand dollars to endow scholarships for young men has come to the University of California through the decree of final distribution for the estate of Mrs. Carrie M. Jones, of Los Angeles.

MOUNT HOLYOKE's alumnae committee reports that its efforts to raise a half million dollar fund for the college have met with success. The committee has turned over to President Woolley vouchers for \$552,000. Of this amount \$100,000 is to be devoted toward a \$125,000 student-alumnae building.

THE trustees of Columbia University announce that under the will of the late Augustus W. Openhym an endowment had been established for research work into the cause, prevention and cure of cancer. The amount of the gift was not made public, but it was said the sum was considerable. If at any time further research into cancer shall no longer be necessary, Mr. Openhym's will stipulates that the income may be used for research work in any branch of medicine or surgery. The endowment under Mr. Openhym's will is to be known as the Openhym Research Fund, and the terms of the gift are substantially the same as those of the Crocker Research Fund which amounts to \$1,440,000. The authorities of Columbia University plan to combine the two endowments.

ON September 24 ground was broken, as we learn from the *Journal* of the American Med-

ical Association, by Dr. Edgar F. Smith, provost of the University of Pennsylvania, and former Mayor Weaver, for the Thomas W. Evans Museum and Dental Institute, at Fortieth and Spruce Streets. The ceremonies were attended by the deans of the University of Pennsylvania, members of the faculty of the University Dental School, representatives of the various dental alumni associations and the French and English consuls. The building is expected to be completed in the fall of 1913 and, according to the plans, will be the largest and best equipped dental school in the world, supported by an endowment of \$600,000. The building will cost about \$500,000. The Museum and Dental Institute will be under the administration of the university. Dr. Evans, the famous Paris dentist in Louis Napoleon's reign, was a former Philadelphian who died in Paris in 1897.

IN conjunction with the state department of health, the medical school of the University of Wisconsin has established a course extending over one year and leading to a diploma in public health. This course will be open only to those who have received a degree in medicine or a degree in medical or sanitary science. The full course for the present college year includes work in nine different fields and is intended to give a comprehensive survey of public health work. How certain diseases may be transferred from animals to man, and how to combat diseases resulting from employment at unhealthful occupations, are two of the things that will be studied. To show students the results of improper lighting and ventilation systems in factories and school houses, etc., special trips will be made by the class. Inspection trips to slaughter houses, meat markets, dairy barns and other places which may have a vital effect upon the health of a community will also be made.

THE forty-first session of the College of Medicine of Syracuse University began October 1 with 31 students registered in the entering class and three entered with advanced standing. At the opening exercises Chancellor

James R. Day spoke to the students and Professor Henry L. Elsner gave the opening address, "Traditions and Ideals." Dean Hefron announced the changes that had been made in courses and in instructors, most important of which were: The creation of an independent department of bacteriology, to the head of which Professor Leverett Dale Bristol, A.B. (Wesleyan), M.D. (Johns Hopkins), was called from Minneapolis. The election of Earl V. Sweet, A.B. (Colgate), M.D. (Cornell), as instructor in histology. The election of Mr. John R. Rice, B.S. (Wesleyan), to be instructor in the department of hygiene and preventive medicine and assistant in the Municipal Laboratory. The election of Albert G. Swift, M.D. (Syracuse), of New York City, to be instructor in clinical surgery. The election of John W. Cox, M.D. (Syracuse), as instructor in pathology. Dr. Frank P. Knowlton, professor of physiology, has returned from a year's leave of absence spent in the University of Cambridge and University College, London. A plan was inaugurated by which each student shall have control of a special microscope which he shall own at the end of his course. The contract for the new College Dispensary has been let and work has begun on the building.

DR. EDWARD THOMPSON FAIRCHILD, of Lawrence, Kans., superintendent of public instruction of that state and president this year of the National Education Association, has been elected president of the New Hampshire College.

THE vacancy in the department of philosophy at De Pauw University caused by the resignation of Dr. William G. Seaman, who has been elected president of Dakota Wesleyan University, has been filled by the election of Frederick M. Harvey, Ph.D. (Boston, '11).

GLEN Z. BROWN, Ph.D. (Penna.), has been appointed professor in chemistry in Bucknell University.

At the University of Minnesota many new appointments have been made. Robert B. Gibson has been made assistant professor of physiologic chemistry; Walter E. Camp and

Elmer R. Hoskins, assistant demonstrators in anatomy. Alois F. Kovarik, of the department of physics, and Herbert H. Woodrow, of the department of philosophy and psychology, have been advanced to the rank of assistant professor. In the agricultural college numerous changes in titles and promotions include J. P. Wentling, from assistant to associate professor of forestry; A. R. Kohler, from instructor to assistant professor of horticulture; J. L. Mowry, from instructor to assistant professor of agricultural engineering; H. B. Roe, in mathematics, W. H. Frazier, in soils, W. L. Oswald, in agricultural botany, Rodney M. West, in agricultural chemistry, A. C. Arny, in agronomy, were all advanced from rank of instructor to assistant professor. A. M. Bull was advanced from instructor in engineering to engineer in charge of buildings with rank of assistant professor. In the college of medicine and surgery the following promotions and changes in title were made: W. P. Larson, bacteriology and pathology, H. P. Ritchie, surgery, F. L. Adair, obstetrics and gynecology, A. S. Hamilton, mental and nervous diseases, E. S. Strout, ophthalmology and otology, Henry L. Williams, gynecology, Wm. A. Hilton, histology and embryology, were all advanced to the rank of assistant professor from that of instructor.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

GYROCOCCUS FLACCIDIFEX AND THE "FLACHERIE"

IN SCIENCE, August 16, Mr. R. W. Glaser and Mr. J. W. Chapman report the discovery of the specific organism which causes "Flacherie" in the gypsy moth caterpillar, and have named it *Gyrococcus flaccidifex*. The communication which pays a handsome and well-deserved compliment to similar work done in Germany on closely related forms, has complacently pronounced "some of the attempts made in this country" to be unscientific. In this very generalized criticism direct reference is made to my paper of 1911.¹ Since a

number of statements and their general tone are misleading, a brief correction is not out of place.

In my paper of 1911, the following contentions were made:

1. That the epidemic flacherie can be induced by special methods in feeding healthy gypsy moth caterpillars.

2. That, having obtained material thus diseased, it is possible to spread the epidemic flacherie by hanging bags of this dry, dead material in healthy caterpillar colonies.

3. That by obtaining diseased material early and hanging it soon after the caterpillars have hatched in the field we have a very efficient means of preventing serious damage, because the disease destroys the greater number of larvæ at early stages.

The authors in their study of the flacherie decide that:

1. This work is unscientific.

2. That it seems very improbable that any such methods as are at present utilized for the artificial spread of flacherie will be of any avail.

It is hardly conceivable that two entomologists should insist that another entomologist must work on the bacteriological side of this problem in order to be scientific. Competent bacteriologists, such as Dr. H. N. Jones, working under the direction of Dr. Theobald Smith, of the Harvard Medical School, have already attacked the bacteriological side of this problem, and report negative results in seeking the specific organism.² Of course, it is possible that an organism which can be seen with simple staining methods or with no stains at all might have been overlooked by the bacteriologists. The authors admit that *Gyrococcus flaccidifex* can be obtained in great numbers. When a healthy caterpillar is inoculated with a pure culture of *Gyrococcus* and dies in a limp or flaccid state, how can any one be sure that this is the same as

¹ Reiff, William, "The Wilt Disease, or Flacherie, of the Gypsy Moth. How to aid the Spread of this Disease." Boston, 1911. Wright & Potter Printing Company.

² Jones, Dr. J. N., "Further Studies on the Nature of the Wilt Disease of the Gypsy Moth Larvæ," in *The State Forester of Massachusetts*, Seventh Annual Report, 1910.