

MR. HENRY GROVES, who with his brother, Mr. James Groves, is the author of important contributions to botany, died in London on November 2, aged fifty-seven years.

DR. HEINRICH RITTHAUSEN, formerly professor of agricultural chemistry at Königsberg, has died at the age of eighty-seven years.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MR. GEORGE F. BAKER, president of the First National Bank of New York City, has given a large sum, reported in the newspapers to be \$2,000,000, to bring about an alliance between the New York Hospital and the Cornell Medical College.

DR. ARTHUR T. CABOT, a fellow of Harvard University, has bequeathed \$100,000 to the Harvard Medical School and the larger part of his estate, estimated at \$500,000, to Harvard University, after the death of Mrs. Cabot.

ACCORDING to the accounting of the executors of the estate of George Crocker, Columbia University receives \$1,566,635 for the Crocker Cancer Research Fund.

It is announced at the University of Rochester that \$262,510 has been contributed to the endowment fund by alumni living elsewhere. Dr. L. E. Holt, of New York City, gave \$10,000; J. Sloat Fassett, of Elmira, \$5,000, and F. R. Welles, of Paris, \$12,000.

AN annual fund of \$15,000 for the purpose of carrying on research work in medicine at the University of Toronto has been subscribed for five years by a few citizens of Toronto, who have become interested in medical education through the efforts of Professor Alexander McPhedran, head of the department of medicine.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has offered to the University of Paris the last \$20,000 necessary for equipping the new Institute of Chemistry in course of erection in the Rue Pierre Curie.

GRADUATE students in the department of botany at the University of Chicago have received the following appointments from other institutions for the present year: Joseph S. Caldwell, fellow in the department, to be professor of botany at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute; Charles A. Shull, to be assistant

professor of plant physiology at the University of Kansas; Ansel F. Hemenway, to be professor of biology at Transylvania University, Kentucky; Claude W. Allee, to be instructor in plant physiology at the University of Illinois; Norma E. Pfeiffer, to be instructor in botany at the University of North Dakota, and Rachel E. Hoffstadt, to be instructor in charge of biology at Marshall College, West Virginia.

DONALD W. DAVIS, for the past three years a student in the graduate school of arts and sciences of Harvard University, has been appointed assistant professor of zoology in Clark College, Worcester, Mass.

IN consequence of the additional grant made by the London County Council to the University of London, professorships of mathematics and of civil engineering have been established at King's College. To the former Dr. J. W. Nicholson, lecturer at Cambridge, has been appointed, and to the latter Mr. A. H. Jameson, engineer of the Thirlmere aqueduct. A professorship of mathematics has also been established at Bedford College, to which Mr. Harold Hilton, of the college, has been promoted.

DR. P. EHRENFEST, of St. Petersburg, has been appointed professor of physics at Leiden.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A SIMPLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE ACTION OF NATURAL SELECTION

IN a recent presidential address, an eminent biologist referred to "such highly speculative disciplines as natural selection, Neo-Lamarckianism, neo-vitalism, etc." The criticism of natural selection implied by such association would have been quite in place a few years ago. Since it represents a widely prevailing opinion at the present time, it may not be out of order once more¹ to direct attention to the fact that natural selection is no longer neces-

¹ The progress which has recently been made by biometricians in the investigations of the selective death rate—the mortality which is not random but which is a function of the characteristics of the individual—has been reviewed in a paper,