

residence quadrangle system in the proposed development of the campus, and the foundations of the buildings are now being laid. Five of these houses will be owned by fraternities, and will be gifts of the alumni to the university for the use of their respective chapters. The nine buildings will accommodate nearly three hundred men, and will be open to students in the Evanston schools and also to those in the professional schools in Chicago. Buildings to be completed within the next two years will cost about \$350,000. Alumni have agreed to give about \$222,000 of this sum for the construction of houses for their fraternities.

THE new household arts and science building at the College of Industrial Arts, Denton, Texas, which is now in the course of erection at an expenditure of over \$75,000, will be completed in the early spring. This building will be devoted exclusively to applied science and art as they relate to the home. Provision has been made for laboratories of food chemistry, textile chemistry and experimental dietetics. Also rooms are provided for mechanical drawing and home architecture, including china painting, clay modeling, pottery and other phases of ceramics. An auditorium with a seating capacity of about 1,100 is also included. The formal opening in April will also be designed to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the college, and several noted scientific men will be invited to be present and make addresses.

THE Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University has established a degree with distinction in natural history. The work of candidates for this degree will be supervised by a committee consisting of the chairmen of the divisions of geology and biology. The requirements for this degree are eight courses in the sciences, at least six of which must be in the divisions of geology and biology. Of the courses so designated, not less than three must be in the middle or higher groups; and not less than one must be taken in each of the divisions of geology and biology.

IN the department of geology at the University of Chicago, Albert Dudley Brokaw has been made an instructor in mineralogy and economic geology.

MR. WILHELM MILLER has been appointed assistant professor of landscape horticulture at the University of Illinois. The name of the appointee was incorrectly given in a recent issue of SCIENCE.

IN the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, the following promotions have been made: R. C. Wallace, Ph.D., D.Sc., to be professor of geology and mineralogy; R. K. McClung, D.Sc., to be assistant professor of physics; L. A. H. Warren, M.A., to be assistant professor of mathematics. The following new appointments have been made: R. W. Moffat, B.A.Sc., of the faculty of applied science of Toronto University, to be lecturer in masonry construction and drawing; E. E. Bankson, B.S., the University of Pittsburgh, to be lecturer in materials and hydraulics.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

PROFESSOR DE GROOT ON AMERICAN SINOLOGY

EUROPEAN scholars justly reproach us for our lack of interest in and knowledge of the far east. We admit that our position in this regard is not what it should be, but we claim to have made a beginning, and that, too, on sound lines, and we feel that we should have the credit for this. At any rate, we are not prepared for the insolent criticism recently passed upon us by Professor J. J. M. de Groot, lately of Leiden, now professor of Chinese in the University of Berlin. Professor de Groot is a self-styled sinologue. We are quite content that that type of sinology is not represented in this country, and we trust never will be. The present state of mental stagnation and petrification in sinology, justly ridiculed by the world at large, owes much to such pseudo-scholars of the oil lamp who must be regarded as relics of a past age. Professor de Groot no doubt can read a Chinese sentence; but that would seem about all. He certainly

understands little of the Chinese, and his lack of respect for China and things Chinese is so great as to place him quite beyond the pale of scientists.

Professor de Groot made his maiden speech in Germany at the July meeting of the Berlin Academy this year. His address is to be found on pages 607-612 of the *Sitzungsberichte der Königlich Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften* of this year. In the address occur these words:

Sinology without a knowledge of Chinese thrives particularly well also in the United States. It is strong in the magazines, but abounds especially in the daily press. Information is imparted with the rapidity of the telegraph on the most complicated and profound secrets of the political, economic and social life of the Middle Kingdom—but the sources of this omniscience unfortunately, as a rule, are only from the bars of the foreign clubs in Shanghai, Tientsin and Hongkong.

The harshness and the undignified form of this assertion might be ignored did it not appear in such an important place as the Reports of the Royal Prussian Academy, a serious publication of one of the highest scientific institutions of Prussia. It is to be feared that this transplanted Dutch professor has little comprehension of what is really going on in the world; certainly he fails utterly to catch the spirit of modern journalism. What student of the Romance languages would cavil with his newspaper correspondent in Paris, who sends home each week his causerie of the goings on at the French capital, thus fulfilling a duty to his community? Or who demands of the Associated Press correspondent in Cairo or Constantinople, or even of the correspondent of the *London Times*, a knowledge of Arabic; or that the correspondent of the daily press in Bombay or Calcutta shall have a knowledge of Hindustani or be a Sanskrit scholar?

It has been my good fortune and my pleasure to become personally acquainted with many American, British, French and German correspondents in China. These men are confronted by an exceedingly difficult task. Without exception they do their best to perform this in accordance with the demand of

the public and the present course of historical events. Our Associated Press for years has maintained in Peking an able, enthusiastic and well-trained man, who does most excellent work in educating the American public to a better appreciation of China. The work done by the Associated Press representative during the busy and stirring days of the revolution is excellent in the highest degree. He made no pretense of being a sinologue, but he worked day and night through interpreters to find out what was going on. He and his other fellow journalists, like the representative of the *Chicago Daily News* and the very able correspondent of the *New York Herald*—an old hand in the newspaper game—and the very able representative of the *New York Tribune*, all attempted and succeeded with eminent success in obtaining solid and reliable information from first-hand sources. In this work they were assisted by the Chinese Foreign Office and the whole body of Chinese officials who have for years made it a rule to supply the representatives of the press with news. Professor de Groot's bold statement that the information of the American press on China originates in clubs is a gross distortion of the facts and an utter violation of the truth. Professor de Groot's logic is at fault if he is unable to discriminate between this legitimate, honest, and most praiseworthy work of the newspaper correspondents and that which is expected of a sinologue or an ethnologist. Apparently, he is not able to understand that there are men in the world who see things at an angle different from that of the sinologue, and more is the pity that he should hold all in contempt that is not done according to his own one-sided way.

Professor de Groot's harsh criticism is all the more surprising in view of the fact that he was the guest of this country two years ago, having been invited by the Hartford Theological Seminary to lecture on the Chinese. It would seem that during this visit he should have gained some knowledge of the many-sided work done in America on Chinese research; but no evidence of this is to be found in his Berlin speech. This omission is so

significant that we succumb to the temptation to look a little further behind the ill-disguised vanity of this professor who poses as the only infallible authority on matters Chinese. There is a further reason for our doing this: in replying to Professor de Groot's speech, the Secretary of the Berlin Academy intimated that the professor's writings contained much information and valuable suggestions for one desiring to understand the actual politics of the China of to-day. A significant example of this kind of practical politics may be found in Professor de Groot's "Religious System of China," which is little more than an ill-digested mass of Chinese quotations couched in bad English. In Volume III., page 1052, we find this gem:

Should European armies have occasion a second time to march on Peking, it will be worth their while to try whether the campaign can not be shortened and loss of life spared by military occupation of the burial grounds of the Imperial family. Indeed, should the Court receive an ultimatum that these tombs would be destroyed one after another by explosives, its belief in the efficacy of Fung-shui would be weakened, and the Court would implicitly submit to the foreigners' demands.

As a recommendation for a *modus operandi* to compel Chinese submission, this is, perhaps, without a parallel. Even the German government in the Boxer debacle of 1900 did not stoop to such depths. And yet, the paragraph just quoted is characteristic of the fiber of a man who professes to be a sinologue and shows neither a glimpse of sympathy with nor a particle of understanding of the Chinese people.

Professor de Groot's political zeal led him to accomplish a still greater triumph in the field of sinology. In 1904 he gave to the world, in two volumes, his "Sectarianism and Religious Persecution in China." In this he attempts to prove that the Chinese are the most intolerant people on earth, and he accomplishes his task by wilfully and maliciously ignoring the whole series of Imperial toleration edicts, of which the Jesuit missionaries are still proud. This sycophantic pro-

duction was justly condemned by all thoughtful men; and, it is to be hoped, it will remain for all time a unique feat in the history of science that a university professor prostituted and humiliated his scholarship to political ends, dictated by an ephemeral fad of the time. No doubt many of our misconceptions of the Chinese are due to the distortions of missionaries, made with a view of proving their case, based on the necessity of their securing funds to carry on their work, but we are hardly prepared for such a perversion of facts at the hands of one who pretends to call himself a sinologue.

GEORGE A. DORSEY

RELATION OF PLASMA-GROWN TISSUE TO SENILITY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The success of the method for prolonging the life of tissues grown in plasma, devised in the laboratory of Dr. Carrel, has led to such a widespread misconception of its significance, as evidenced by articles in medical and semi-popular scientific periodicals, that a note regarding it may not be out of place. It is needless to say that these extravagant claims are not based on Dr. Carrel's conclusions as published, but upon independent interpretations of the results of his experiments.

The mere statement of the conclusions generally reached by writers in the above mentioned periodicals is sufficient to indicate their character, to the biologist at least. It is first claimed that the cessation of cell activity of the tissue in the plasma after twenty days or so is due to the same conditions which produce senility. Then it is pointed out that the actual cause of the cessation in the plasma is the accumulation of waste products, therefore the proof is complete and the great discovery at last accomplished, that senility is the result of the accumulation of waste products in the cells. On the same grounds death of a human being through uremic poisoning would be considered as due to old age, and a man suffocated by drowning be a victim of senility. Obviously there is no evidence that the causes which stop the activity of the cells in the plasma are the same as those which produce