vard University; the vice-presidents, Dr. William H. Welch, of Johns Hopkins, and Dr. Henry P. Walcott, of the Massachusetts Board of Health. The long list of honorary vice-presidents includes: Dr. Abraham Jacobi, of New York City; Dr. William H. Burnham, of Clark University; Cardinal Gibbons; Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education; Surgeon-General Blue, of the Public Health Service; Dr. H. M. Bracken, of the Minnesota State Board of Health; President David Starr Jordan, of Leland Stanford Junior University; Dr. Woods Hutchinson, representing the National Education Association, and many other distinguished physicians, educators and civic experts.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Mr. John R. Strong has given to the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University for use as a forest experiment station 100 acres of forest land at Tannersville in the Catskills, including a summer residence. The tract will be used as a forest experiment station and for a students' camp in the summer.

Williams College has received $20,000 from the estate of John Savary, '55, of Washington, D. C. The income from this amount is to be used for the purchase of books for the library.

Western Reserve University has received from Mr. Henry F. Lyman, of Cleveland, a large collection of shells, corals and agates. The collection is one begun by Mr. Lyman during a visit to the Hawaiian Islands in 1875.

Science Hall of Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, has been completed and is now occupied by the three departments of physics, chemistry and biology. The building is a four story structure of red pressed brick, 79 feet by 124 feet, costing about $120,000. The department of physics and electrical engineering occupies the first two floors. These will provide recitation rooms and offices for the instructors in the department; a large laboratory for general physics, with two dark rooms and apparatus rooms attached; laboratories for the various advanced courses in physics, with the necessary weighing rooms and apparatus rooms; a laboratory for electrical measurements, with apparatus rooms and weighing rooms attached; a dynamo motor and transformer laboratory; a photometric laboratory; a storage battery room; high temperature laboratory; unpacking room; storage rooms; several small research laboratories; constant temperature laboratory; drafting room; shop; private laboratory; library and reading room. The other departments are correspondingly arranged.

A course in general science leading to the degree of bachelor of science is offered for 1913–14 in the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Vermont. This course is similar to the A.B. and Ph.B. courses in its adherence to the group system, but differs from them in requiring mathematics and physics and a larger amount of work in the scientific group of studies. The course is intended for those who intend to teach the sciences in secondary schools and for those who desire a broad scientific training before entering a technical or professional school. The entrance requirements of the new course lay stress on the sciences rather than on the languages.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology will hold a reunion of alumni in New York City on January 17 and 18. There will be special trains from Boston and probably from Washington and Philadelphia. The plans include class luncheons on Friday and a mass meeting in the afternoon; society and fraternity breakfasts on Saturday, departmental luncheons and a banquet in the evening. At the mass meeting on Friday afternoon the following have accepted the invitation to speak: President R. C. Maclaurin, Mr. John R. Freeman, Professor D. R. Dewey, Professor A. A. Noyes and Professor W. T. Sedgwick. Speakers at the department luncheons will include the following:

Course I.—Professor C. M. Spofford, Professor G. F. Swain.

Course II.—Professor E. F. Miller, Professor G. Lanza, Dean Goss, of the University of Illinois.

Courses III. and XII.—Professor R. H. Richards and Professor W. Lindgren.

Course IV.—Professor F. W. Chandler and Professor J. Knox Taylor.

Courses V. and X.—Professor H. P. Talbot and Professor W. H. Walker.

Course VI.—Professor D. C. Jackson, Professor Elihu Thomson, Mr. Gano Dunn.

Courses VII. and XI.—Professor W. T. Sedgwick and Mr. Rudolph Hering.

Courses VIII. and XIV.—Professor C. R. Cross and Professor H. M. Goodwin.

Course IX.—Professor D. R. Dewey and Professor H. G. Pearson.

Course XIII.—Professor C. H. Peabody.

At the banquet on Saturday night President Maclaurin, President A. C. Humphreys, of the Stevens Institute of Technology, and Mr. John V. Bouvier will be among the speakers.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AT WASHINGTON

THROUGH the courtesy of President Charles R. Van Hise, of the University of Wisconsin, the writer is just in receipt of a reprint from SCIENCE, of August 16, 1912, entitled "A National University, a National Asset; an Instrumentality for Advanced Research," the same being an address delivered by him at the 1912 meeting of the National Education Association.

The paper is a clear, comprehensive and practical exposition of the desirability and possibility of the fullest practicable systematic utilization, by those having the bachelor's degree with a year's subsequent practical work, of the extraordinary research facilities at Washington, embracing physical science and sociology (the latter including anthropology, political economy, political science and history), with such lectures by government officials as will direct the work to the highest efficiency. As such, the paper is a valuable contribution to the subjects involved, and is so excellent, as far as it goes, that the writer is reluctant to say aught in criticism, and does so only because the cause of education seems to require it.

The paper is not more noteworthy for what it advocates than for what it might be expected to advocate. Its negations are quite as marked as its affirmations. The first paragraph is as follows:

> At the outset, the guiding principle may be laid down that at Washington there is no necessity for a university of a type which exists elsewhere, no need of an additional university like the great endowed and state universities of the country. One who advocates a national university at Washington with the idea that it shall be a larger Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Cornell or Chicago, a larger Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota or California, will fail in his advocacy, because he can not give to Congress a sufficient reason for the expenditure of public funds for another university of a kind of which there is a sufficient number. Not only would such an advocate be met by the above fact, but by the fact that in Germany, where universities are most highly developed, they are state, not national institutions.

In the first place, the statement with respect to Congress is opinion only. In the writer's judgment, sufficient reasons *have* repeatedly been given to Congress, and if Congress has not been appreciative enough of the higher education, the fault has been not with the reasons, but with Congress. The mere fact that Congress has heretofore disregarded the proposals of the most distinguished committee ever constituted in an educational interest (although having a Senate standing committee on the University of the United States which in recent years has made four favorable reports, all but the third unanimous) is no reason for not continuing the campaign until Congress either recognizes the merits of the case or capitulates in the spirit of the unjust judge of Biblical parable.

As for Germany, it needs but be said that, if she has not yet attained the national university conception, she is on the way to it, and the German mind can be trusted to work out the problem of university education to its logical result.

And so the question reverts to the "guiding principle" of the paper. If the writer be not mistaken, there were Wisconsin colleges, excellent for their day, already existing when the