

Leipzig on November 25. It now includes over 75 per cent. of the German medical profession, the membership being about 25,000 on October 1, 1912. The work of the association requires the services of 1,280 confidential agents and superintendents who serve without pay. During the past business year the department for exchanges of practise placed 3,600 physicians in suitable positions. The widows' fund, a fund made up of voluntary contributions, distributed to the widows of physicians \$9,500. In preparation for the struggle which is expected to occur against the *Krankenkassen* in consequence of the new insurance law, a fund has been provided by contributions of at least 100 Marks, loaned without interest, which now amounts to more than \$250,000. The loan and death bureau, founded by the association in 1910, now includes 14,000 members. This serves the double purpose of making loans to its members on sufficient security and of providing a death benefit, which varies according to the contributions from \$50 to \$500. The bureau has hitherto loaned about \$165,000.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late Mrs. Lucy Wharton Drexel \$70,000 is bequeathed to the museum of the University of Pennsylvania, and \$20,000 to the University Hospital.

THROUGH Dr. Andrew D. White, Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given to Cornell University \$25,000, which will probably be used as a student loan fund.

To parallel the work of the *Deutsches Haus* of Columbia University an anonymous donor has presented to the trustees the house at 411 West 117th Street as *La Maison Française*. The building, of which the cost is estimated at \$30,000, will be used as a center for the study of French literature and civilization. Columbia University has also received a gift of \$8,000 from Mr. Edward D. Adams, of New York, for the equipment of a precision laboratory for physical research, to be known as the Ernest Kempton Adams ('97S) Precision Laboratory.

By the will of Levi N. Stewart, of Minneapolis, Dartmouth College receives \$75,000 and Bowdoin College and Bates College \$50,000 each. All the bequests are unconditional. Mr. Stewart was a former inhabitant of Maine and a graduate of Dartmouth College.

TUFTS COLLEGE is given the residue of the estate of Miss Hannah S. Moulton, of Kensington, N. H., estimated at about \$25,000, for the founding of a scholarship.

THE recommendations of President Schurman, of Cornell University, in his latest annual report as to faculty participation in the university government were considered by the board of trustees at their recent meeting. The board recognized the desirability of closer relations and greater cooperation between the faculty and the board of trustees in matters pertaining to the administration of the university's affairs and referred the matter to a committee of five, to be appointed to consider and report recommendations to the board at a later meeting, final action to be deferred until after President Schurman's return.

THE regents of the University of Minnesota have voted to refer to the university senate for consideration the plan of granting six months absence on full pay in lieu of sabbatical leave for a year on half pay. It was also voted to refer to the same body the question of members of the staff accepting outside employment without the approval of the dean and the president.

PROFESSOR LUDWIG SINZHEIMER, of the University of Munich, will join the faculty of the University of Wisconsin for the second semester, taking the place of Professor Richard T. Ely, who has been appointed lecturer at the University of London during the remainder of the year.

MR. M. J. PRUCHA has been promoted from an instructorship to an assistant professorship of plant physiology in the Cornell College of Agriculture.

JOHN W. GILMORE, president of the College of Hawaii, has been appointed head of the department of agronomy of the college of agriculture of the University of California and

will take up his work at Berkeley next September.

DR. RICHARD P. STRONG, director of the Government Biological Laboratory at Manila, and professor of tropical medicine in the Philippine Medical School, has been appointed head of a newly established department of tropical medicine in the Harvard Medical School.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ON COMPARING AMMONIFYING COEFFICIENTS OF DIFFERENT SOILS

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for November 29, 1912, there appears on page 761 a special article under the above caption by Professor Chas. B. Lipman, of the University of California. The brief is devoted almost entirely to a friendly criticism of certain conclusions drawn by the writer regarding a comparison of the ammonifying efficiency of certain Colorado soils with that of soils from other stated localities. Such criticisms, when presented in the proper spirit, and there is no reason to feel that this has not been the case here, are always welcome and are often helpful.

Now, the writer admits quite freely that the fundamental facts brought out by Professor Lipman are very largely true. However, he is not willing to concede so readily that the criticisms based upon these facts as applied to the case at hand are altogether warranted.

Among Professor Lipman's comments is to be found the following:

Despite the fact that Professor Sackett makes some qualifying statements in discussing the comparisons, he does not seem to attach importance enough to some factors of which he appears to be fully cognizant and gives no consideration to other very important factors.

In support of this statement, the critic offers the following, all of which tends to leave the impression that the writer has not taken these matters into consideration and given them due weight, in spite of the fact that statements to the contrary appear in the original publication¹ referred to:

¹Bulletin 184, Colorado Experiment Station, June, 1912, Part I, "The Ammonifying Efficiency of Certain Colorado Soils."

The writer (Lipman) of this note fails to appreciate the value of a comparison of the ammonifying powers of various soils as obtained by different investigators whose methods vary as much as ours do to-day.

The writer in selecting the results of the work of others for comparison was particular to choose only such as were obtained in laboratories where practically the same methods have been employed, and wherever there has been any departure from the procedure of the majority, such departure has been indicated.

On page 21 of the bulletin cited occurs this statement:

The methods employed by the different experimenters have been practically the same, so the results should be comparable.

Again, Professor Lipman points out the importance of all investigators employing the same brand, in fact the same lot, of dried blood in comparative work, intimating that the writer has ignored this point. This would be an ideal condition, most certainly, the desirability of which no one questions, but how impractical! If investigators would submit the analysis of such materials as the above along with their reports, this would assist greatly in comparative studies. The writer is fully aware that dried blood may vary all the way from 6 to 13 per cent. total nitrogen, and had he not had clearly in mind the possible influence of its composition on ammonification, why should he have called the reader's attention to this statement on page 23 of Bulletin 184?

With the exception of the New Jersey figures, the percentages given in Table No. 6 are based upon blood meal containing 13.05 per cent. of total nitrogen, and cottonseed meal with 7.84 per cent. total nitrogen. In the New Jersey work, Lipman (J. G.) states that the blood meal and cottonseed meal contained, respectively, 13.18 per cent. and 6.405 per cent. total nitrogen.

Unfortunately, the composition of the blood meal employed by the different investigators cited in the comparative studies, with one exception, was not given, and consequently the writer, in order to get some basis for comparison, was compelled to compute the results