

be a public function at the university. The local committee will entertain the distinguished visitors at night, probably at a theater. Tuesday, September 16, will be devoted to sectional meetings in the morning, and a conference of delegates and a garden party at the Edgbaston Botanical Gardens in the afternoon. In the evening there is to be another popular science lecture and a discourse to members. On the following day the meeting closes.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE regents of the University of Wisconsin have decided to ask the state legislature, now in session, for \$1,000,000 to be appropriated in sums of \$250,000 a year for four years, in order to provide and equip dormitories for men, a men's commons and union and a student infirmary. They have also voted to request the continuance of the present appropriation of \$300,000 a year for the construction and equipping of academic buildings. For the further development of university extension work, the regents desire an increase of \$25,000 a year. Owing to the reduction in the assessed valuation of personal property, resulting from the adoption of the income tax in Wisconsin, the university's fund for current expenses provided for by the three eighths of a mill tax, has this year fallen below the amount anticipated. The regents, therefore, have requested that the sum of \$92,380 be appropriated to make up this year's decrease; that \$175,000 be provided for next year's decrease, and \$225,000 for the following year's decrease.

It appears from reports in the daily papers that Professor Willard C. Fisher, of Wesleyan University, known for his effective advocacy of legislation on behalf of the laboring classes of Connecticut, has been dismissed from his chair at Wesleyan University for stating that religion would benefit from the closing of churches for several years.

FORMER Dean W. A. Henry, of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, has presented his private library to the agricultural college. It will be maintained

largely for the use of the dean and director of the college and the station.

THE whole staff of the college of medicine and surgery of the University of Minnesota having resigned, the regents have named the following committee to consider and make recommendations concerning the reorganization of medical teaching in the university: Dean Westbrook, Drs. Moore, Green, Wilson (of Rochester), Tuohy (of Duluth), and Bratrud (of Warren), and the president of the university.

MR. ALFRED KNIGHT CHITTENDEN, forester in the U. S. Indian Service, Department of the Interior, has been appointed assistant to the director of the Engineering Experiment Station and lecturer on timber and timber resources in the College of Engineering of the University of Illinois.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. ELLIOTT, head of the education department at the University of Wisconsin, has refused the offer of the presidency of the University of Idaho recently made him by the regents of that institution.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

CONN'S "BIOLOGY"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In the last number of SCIENCE (December 28) I notice a review of Conn's "Biology," by M. M., in which the reviewer draws parallels between the subject in hand and some other sciences. It would seem that the examples selected were ill chosen to meet the point at issue. But this may be due to the fact that others look upon biology differently from the reviewer.

Biology, being the study of living things, must be concerned with either plants or animals. A book written by either of the corresponding scientists is likely to be more accurate in all details, within his field, than is a book written by a scientist engaged in the other of the two fields. To cover accurately both divisions of the subject requires a breadth of view, and a degree of detailed knowledge in each field, not often combined in a single individual; especially in these days of high specialization.