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 Wesbrook, 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.

How much better will a sophomore understand the general conditions governing respiration after reading this book, in which the references in index are to animal respiration only, than from selected portions of two books showing that exchange of gases takes place both in plants and in animals?

Or what will a student understand from the statement (p. 226) that "in plants the supporting structure is, as a rule, developed better than in animals." Wherein is the oak "better" than the horse, in respect to its supporting structure?

Again what would a thinking student make of the statement (p. 234), "there are other materials made by the plants, like wood and leaves, which can not serve as food for animals," when he sees boring insects in wood, reads of beavers and their winter supply of tree trunks, and observes animals grazing on the leaves of plants?

And if any members of a domestic science class should notice the definition of yolk, page 249, as "deutoplasm (Gr. *deuteros* = second + *plasma* = substance), deposited in the egg for the nourishment of the young," when in all their cooking experience concerning eggs they are taught that the yolk is at the center, while albumen or "white of the egg" is deposited about this—what conclusions would they draw from "biology"?

No doubt a number of these misstatements are chargeable to the printers, but they should be eliminated in a second edition.

In the review signed M. M. one side of the subject is presented; in the above note, another viewpoint is taken—botany and zoology as constituting biological science.

FREDERICK H. BLODGETT
TEXAS EXPERIMENT STATION

As this work, lately reviewed in SCIENCE, will probably be used in many colleges, it may be well to point out a paragraph on distribution which certainly needs amendment:

> The high mountain ranges are perhaps the most effectual barriers of all. Practically no animal or plant is able to cross over the higher mountain ranges. The Rocky Mountains effectually separate the eastern from the western slope, and the life on the two slopes of these mountains is quite different, though the climate may be much the same (p. 381).

It would be difficult to write anything more misleading. The life on the two slopes of the Rocky Mountains is not "quite different," except when climatic (especially moisture) conditions differ on the two sides. The statement as given is nearly true for freshwater fishes in Colorado, but quite untrue for the great majority of plants and animals.

Several other things in the book should be corrected. It is certainly misleading to write "primrose," instead of evening primrose, for *Œnothera* (p. 357). I do not understand why Onychophora (p. 378) are said to be centipedes. These and other such things are of course small matters in comparison with the large amount of excellent material in the book; but there should be no flies in the biological soup prepared for college students.

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THE REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: With reference to my article on the reform of the calendar published in your number for May 6, 1911, Vol. XXXIII., pp. 690–2, I desire to call the attention of those who took part in the discussion at that time to further developments in the matter.

In the December number of the Esperanto *Scienca Gazeto,* published in Paris by Hachette & Co., Ch. Verax, editor, we are told that the Swiss government actually appointed the commission referred to in my article and since that time have received 30 different projects for the reform of the calendar, 14 of which were written in Esperanto and the other 16 in seven different national languages.

The commission is still open for additional proposals and it is to be hoped that all those who took part in the discussion in SCIENCE will send their proposals without delay to the address "Conseil federal" or "Schweizerischer Bundesrat" (Federal Council), Bern, Switzerland.