

University Chapter of the Sigma Xi Society this year are Dean David S. White of the College of Veterinary Medicine, president; J. S. Hine, associate professor of biology, vice-president; F. C. Blake, professor of physics, treasurer, and James R. Withrow, professor of industrial chemistry, secretary.

PROFESSOR A. M. TOZZER, of Harvard University, during the mid-year period, gave lectures before the various societies of the Archeological Institute of America in the following places: St. John, Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Buffalo, Rochester, Auburn and Syracuse.

On February 7, Professor Edward L. Thorndike, of Teachers College, Columbia University, delivered in the afternoon a lecture on "Social Instincts" before the department of psychology of the John Hopkins University; and, in the evening he addressed the Educational Society of Baltimore on "Retardation and Elimination in High School."

PROFESSOR J. S. PRAY, chairman of the department of landscape gardening of Harvard University, gave recently two lectures at the University of Illinois on the subjects "Functional City Planning" and "Gardens Old and New."

MONSIEUR J. M. F. DE PULLIGNY, ingénieur en chef des ponts et chaussées, et directeur, Mission Française d'Ingénieurs aux États-Unis, New York City, on February 11, delivered an illustrated lecture on "The Public Service of Roads in France," before the graduate students in highway engineering at Columbia University.

On February 4 Professor G. H. Parker lectured before the Vassar Brothers' Institute, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on "The Evolution of the Nervous System."

THE Alumni Association of the Michigan College of Mines has published its January number of *The M. C. M. Alumnus*, which is a memorial to Professor George A. Koenig, head of the department of chemistry, who died in Philadelphia on January 14. The number contains a full-page engraving from a late

photograph, a biography and the addresses of the memorial service.

PROFESSOR JULIUS FRANZ, director of the astronomical observatory at Breslau, has died at the age of sixty-five years.

DR. G. DE LAVAL, the well-known Swedish engineer and inventor, has died at the age of sixty-seven years.

THE Civil Service Commission invites attention to the regular spring examinations for scientific assistant, Department of Agriculture, to be held April 9 and 10. The entrance salaries are from \$1,000 to \$1,800. Examinations will be given in the following subjects: agronomy, dairying, entomology, farm economics, farm equipment, forage crops, general farm management, horticulture, library science, nutrition and calorimetry, plant breeding, plant pathology, pomology, seed testing, soil bacteriology, soil chemistry, soil surveying. An examination will be held on March 10 for senior highway engineer, to fill vacancies as they may occur in this position in the office of public roads, Department of Agriculture, at salaries ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,400 a year.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE sum of \$75,000 has been subscribed and given to Vassar College to endow a chair of physical science.

IN a recent issue of *SCIENCE*, mention was made of the bequests of Levi N. Stewart, of Minneapolis, to Dartmouth, Bowdoin and Bates Colleges. In addition Mr. Stewart bequeathed \$75,000 to Colby College.

MR. DAN R. HANNA, proprietor of the Cleveland *Leader and News*, has offered to the Western Reserve University ten thousand dollars a year for establishing a School of Journalism. The school will be coordinated with the other professional schools of the university, and will be its ninth department. Adelbert College, the college of arts and sciences for men, is the oldest department. It was founded as Western

Reserve College in 1826, and refounded as Adelbert College of Western Reserve University in 1882. The School of Medicine was founded in 1843, the School of Pharmacy in 1882 and the College for Women in 1888. In 1892, the School of Law, the Graduate School and the Dental School were founded. The Library School was founded in 1904.

THE actual number of law schools in the United States only increased from 102 to 118 in the decade from 1902 to 1912, according to figures compiled at the U. S. Bureau of Education, but the number of students studying law in these schools increased from 13,912 to 20,760 in same period. There were 3,524 graduates of law schools in 1902 and 4,394 last year. Law students, having a collegiate degree, doubled in the ten years. Financially the law schools show a remarkable advance. The endowment funds increased from half a million to nearly two million dollars; the grounds and buildings tripled in value; and the total income in 1912 was \$1,368,000, as against \$523,000 in 1902. The 387,000 volumes in the law-school libraries of 1902 had grown to 936,000 in 1912.

DR. FREDERIC LYMAN WELLS, assistant in pathological psychology at the McLean Hospital, is conducting a course of lectures and discussions on "Pathological Psychology" at Harvard University.

DR. FREDERICK G. DONNAN, F.R.S., has been appointed to the chair of general chemistry at University College, London, recently vacated by Sir William Ramsay, F.R.S.

DR. WILLIAM J. DAKIN, F.R.S., at present assistant professor at London University, has been appointed professor of biology at the University of Western Australia, Perth. Dr. Alexander D. Ross, of Scotland, has been appointed professor of mathematics and physics in the same institution.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A PLAN FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

JUDGING by the number of bequests and endowments directed toward that end, the

furthering of medical research is an attractive field for philanthropic endeavor if not for public investment. As one of the rank and file who are working toward the advancement of medical science I would suggest that no method of encouraging such research has heretofore been wholly successful. The foundation of institutes for this purpose is effective in case of the favored few who happen to be reached, but for most scientists (including the clinical variety), who are engaged in teaching in medical schools, who constitute the great proportion of the working force, such foundations are of little assistance.

The most effective plan would seem to be that by which actual accomplishment is rewarded without unduly favoring any one. Such a result could be achieved by the simple expedient of endowing the periodicals devoted to the publication of research so that contributed articles could be paid for according to their merit. Such an arrangement would obviate the most discouraging feature of working in many institutions, the feeling that unusual effort is, from a selfish point of view, not merely futile but even detrimental, in that leisure for reading, recreation and family life is sacrificed without compensating gain.

The plan in operation would be simplicity itself. Rewards would go automatically to those who earned them. The chief difficulty seemingly would be to secure editorial boards fair minded enough to decide justly upon the merits of each contribution, but that difficulty would be by no means insurmountable. In any case to assign a value to a given piece of research would be much easier than to forecast which of a dozen men would be accomplishing the most effective work ten years later, a forecast which, as a matter of fact, has to be made in each instance, before a desirable research or teaching position can justly be assigned.

It is recognized that the best endeavor can not be bought, and that the best rewards of a scientific career are not pecuniary—"but that is another story!" Whatever merit there is in financial encouragement would seem best