

MISS EMILY SOUTHMAYD, of New York City, has presented Yale University with \$125,000 to found a chair of equity jurisprudence in the Yale Law School in memory of her brother, the late Charles F. Southmayd.

THE American Telegraph and Telephone Company has given the Massachusetts Institute of Technology \$5,000 a year for five years to catalogue and maintain the electrical library recently given to the institution. It is also reported that the American Telegraph and Telephone Company will support research work in electricity at the institute.

MR. G. A. WILLS and Mr. H. H. Wills have given £150,000 for the extension of the buildings of Bristol University, in memory of their father, who was the first chancellor. Their brother, Mr. W. M. Wills, has offered £20,000 for the general endowment fund of the university.

IN the *President's Report*, issued this month by the University of Chicago Press, President Harry Pratt Judson says: "It is of course well understood as a distinct policy of some educational institutions to spend what is necessary regardless of resources, depending upon alumni and friends of the institution to provide the resulting deficit. It is not the belief of the University of Chicago that deficit financing is safe from any point of view." The report shows that there was a surplus for last year of \$17,270.29. It also shows that about forty-three per cent. of the total income of the university for the year was derived from students, that the sum of \$107,441.14 was returned to them in the form of fellowships and scholarships, and that fifty-six per cent. of the total expenditures was paid for instruction. During the year the sum of \$1,087,178.92 was paid in in the form of gifts. The total gifts paid in from the founding of the university to June 30, 1912, amounts to \$33,784,523.81.

AT Yale University Dr. William Ernest Hocking has been promoted to be professor of philosophy, and Dr. Frederick Rogers Fairchild to be professor of political economy.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE MEMORIAL TO ANTON DOHRN

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for November 10, 1911, was printed a statement concerning the memorial to Anton Dohrn, with an appeal from the executive committee of the American subcommittee for subscriptions to a fund to be established for this purpose. The subscription is to be closed May 1, 1913, and it is hoped that additional contributions may be received before that date. The American subscription is still far short of what the committee had hoped for, and should be increased if this country is to be creditably represented in the general fund. Checks should be drawn to the order of the Anton Dohrn Memorial and sent to Mr. Isaac N. Seligman, care of J. and W. Seligman and Co., No. 1 William St., New York City.

EDMUND B. WILSON,
Chairman of the American Subcommittee

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A SUGGESTED FORMULA FOR BIOLOGISTS

IT is a well known fact of observation that the smaller creatures are ever the more vigorous. A flea is proportionately vastly more powerful than a cat; and the cat than an elephant. While in paleontology giantism is, I think, recognized as a stigma of degeneracy, preceding racial extinction.

Now, may not these observations be embodied in the following single mathematical form.

The weight of any two similar animals is plainly proportionate to the *cube* of their heights. While their muscular power may surely be taken as proportionate to the area of the similar cross sections of corresponding muscles; and thus proportionate to the *square* of their heights. So that, of 2 cats say, if *B* be *n* times higher than *A*, then it is *n*³ times heavier; but has only *n*² times more muscular strength. And is thus really 1/*n* proportionally weaker. For, plainly, during any corresponding exertion, it must move *n*³ more weight, with but *n*² more strength.

ALAN S. HAWKESWORTH