

tion between the Federal Survey and the state of California.

WE learn from *Nature* that it is proposed to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the Indian Museum in Calcutta next February. Originally founded as a branch of the Asiatic Society of Bengal at the suggestion of Wallich, the botanist, on February 2, 1814, the Indian Museum became a government institution in 1867, after prolonged negotiations with the government of India, which accepted the society's collections to form the nucleus of an imperial museum in Calcutta. A centenary committee has been formed with Lord Carmichael, the governor of Bengal, as chairman, and Sir Asutosh, Mookerjee, vice-chancellor of the Calcutta University, as vice-chairman. The committee has decided to publish an official history of the museum, to raise a special fund for the improvement of the public galleries, and to hold a reception in the museum on the anniversary of its foundation.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE General Education Board at its May meeting made appropriations of \$837,600. Conditional appropriations for colleges are as follows:

John B. Stetson University, Deland, Fla.	\$ 50,000
Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.	100,000
Pomona College, Claremont, Cal.	150,000
Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.	75,000
Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.	100,000

Appropriations for special purposes are as follows:

For demonstration work in agriculture in the southern states, which include the boys' corn club work	180,050
For the promotion of girls' canning and poultry clubs throughout the south	75,000
For agricultural demonstration work in five counties of Maine	14,500
For the beginning of agricultural demonstration work in New Hampshire	7,500
For professors of secondary education in the several state universities of the southern states	30,550
For state supervisors of negro schools in several southern states	20,000
Schools for negro students in the south	35,000

A NEW chair of bacteriology is to be founded in Edinburgh University under a bequest from Mr. Robert Irvine, of Royston, Granton. *Nature* states that at his death, eleven years ago, Mr. Irvine bequeathed 230 shares of £10 each in a company for developing the resources of Christmas Island for the purpose of establishing the chair when the interest from the shares should reach £25,000 or £30,000. The accumulated dividends on these shares now reach more than £30,000. It is understood that £25,000 will go towards the maintenance of the professorship, and that the remaining £5,000 will be used in providing the class-rooms, laboratories and the necessary equipment.

DR. P. M. DAWSON, a graduate of Johns Hopkins University, and of its medical school, and for eleven years a member of its physiological staff, has been appointed instructor in physiology at the University of Wisconsin Medical School.

THE following promotions and new appointments have been made in the Stanford University Medical Department: Dr. Thomas Addis has been promoted to associate professor of medicine, Dr. E. C. Dickson and Dr. W. W. Boardman have been made assistant professors of medicine; Dr. Leo Eloesser and Dr. F. E. Blaisdell have been made assistant professors of surgery. Dr. R. G. Brodrick, of the San Francisco Board of Health, has been appointed assistant clinical professor of hygiene and public health. In the division of medicine Dr. W. F. Schaller has been made assistant clinical professor, assigned to neurology, and Dr. J. M. Wolfsohn, clinical instructor, assigned to neurology. Dr. A. A. O'Neill has been promoted to clinical instructor in medicine and Dr. G. A. Rothganger has been appointed instructor in surgery.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco is an institution of about 400 cor-

porate members. The academy is endowed with property approximating a million dollars in value, with the income of which collections and expeditions are maintained, and curators and other scientific and administrative employees are engaged. The members elect annually a board of seven non-salaried trustees, who fix the salaries of employees and otherwise administer the business affairs of the institution; and a non-salaried council, consisting of the president, two vice-presidents, two secretaries, the treasurer, the librarian and the director of the museum of the academy. The council plans the scientific work of the academy, appoints the curators, and recommends their salaries to the trustees.

Leverett Mills Loomis became curator of ornithology in the academy June 12, 1894, and has held the position continuously since that time. At the annual election in January, 1902, he was elected director of the museum, and was reelected to this office each year until and including 1912. In December of 1912 the nominating committee of the academy, regularly selected by the council and trustees in joint meeting, presented for 1913 a ticket of officers the same as the incumbents during 1912, with the sole exception that another candidate was nominated for director of the museum in place of Mr. Loomis. Although there is constitutional provision for contesting elections, no such contest was made, and Mr. Loomis's tenure of the directorship thereby came to an end with 1912.

During January and the first half of February, 1913, the council reappointed—and the trustees subsequently voted salaries for—all curators and assistants who had served during 1912, excepting Mr. Loomis, who was not reappointed as curator of ornithology.

At the stated meeting of the academy, that is to say, of the corporate members, on February 17, 1913, notice was given that the following resolution would be offered at the next stated meeting, and notice thereof was ordered sent to all members:

That the academy regrets the action of the council in not recommending to the trustees the

appointment of L. M. Loomis as curator of ornithology, for the year 1913. Mr. Loomis has held this office for more than eighteen years, has twice built up a unique collection of birds for the academy, and his integrity, scientific competence and executive ability are unquestioned. The directorship of the museum is an elective office; the executive curatorship of the academy, though appointive, is an adjunct to the directorship, and may therefore justifiably go with it; but the curatorship of ornithology, like all other departmental curatorships, should be bestowed and reawarded only on the basis of merit and service. The failure to reappoint Mr. Loomis would therefore be a breach of fairness on a point of policy in which all reputable scientific institutions are in accord. It could be construed only as the intrusion of personal jealousies or political enmities into the field of scientific service, and would accordingly bring the academy into bad repute as to its equity in dealing with scientific employees. The academy therefore earnestly requests its council to appoint Mr. Loomis curator of ornithology for 1913, and urges upon its trustees to engage Mr. Loomis to take charge of the department which he has so long, so faithfully and so successfully administered, at the salary which it has been and is the practise to pay to academy curators giving full time to their duties.

At the stated meeting of March 3 a substitute for this resolution was offered by the original proponent, and adopted as follows by the academy:

As the council at recent meetings has failed to recommend the reappointment of L. M. Loomis to the curatorship of ornithology, and as it seems that said action could not have been made with all bearings of the question in mind, the academy herewith respectfully requests the council to appoint Mr. Loomis curator of the department of ornithology, and urges upon its trustees to engage him to take charge of this department, at the salary which is customarily paid by the academy to curators giving full time, with the following considerations in view: the long service of Mr. Loomis as a curator in the academy; the success achieved by him in accumulating large and valuable collections of birds; and the moral basis of the relation of an institution to employees of long standing.

At the next stated meeting of the academy, on March 17, 1913, the following communication from the council was read:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,  
March 17, 1913.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY  
OF SCIENCES:

Having been officially notified of your request as adopted by resolution at the stated meeting of the academy on March 3, that Mr. L. M. Loomis be reappointed curator of the department of ornithology at the compensation which is customary for curators devoting full time to the affairs of their departments, your council desires to assure you that this request is receiving their earnest and most serious consideration.

For the council,  
C. E. GRUNSKY,  
*President*  
J. W. HOBSON,  
*Secretary*

At the stated meeting of April 7 the council reported to the academy that it had adopted the following resolution:

Having under consideration the request of the academy that the council reappoint Mr. Loomis curator of the department of ornithology for the current year, be it

*Resolved*, that it is the sense of the council that such reappointment would not be for the best interests of the academy.

Upon presentation of this report from the council, the following resolution was moved and was adopted by the academy:

The academy condemns and disavows the refusal of its council to reappoint L. M. Loomis curator of ornithology, without any charge having been brought against him after eighteen years of faithful and efficient service, as an act of unfairness, and as bringing reproach on the name and equity of the academy.

A. L. KROEBER

#### UNIVERSITY LIFE IN IDAHO

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In reply to Professor Kellogg's letter in the issue of SCIENCE, May 16, 1913, regarding the reported dismissal of Professor Aldrich, of the University of Idaho, I may say that I have not made any recommendation regarding Professor Aldrich's tenure of office to the board of regents, nor to any member of the board—nor have I been asked to do so. I am informed that the action

of the board was undertaken on its own responsibility and in fulfilment of its public trust, and the action was confirmed by the new board of education organized for all of the educational institutions of Idaho. I had no part in either proceeding. Accordingly, I am not entitled to share in either the credit or the criticism of the result. The rest of Professor Kellogg's letter is likewise unsupported in fact.

JAMES A. MACLEAN,  
*President, University of Manitoba*

#### THE COTTRELL PROCESS FOR DEPOSITING DUST AND SMOKE

MR. LINN BRADLEY, of the Research Corporation, recently gave a lecture on the Cottrell Process<sup>1</sup> before the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. It was my privilege to help Mr. Bradley in his experimental demonstration of the process, and I suggested to Mr. Bradley a modification which proved to be very satisfactory for the lecture table.

A glass tube two inches in diameter and four or five feet long is supported in a horizontal position with a heavy wire or metal rod lying along the bottom of the tube and connected to one terminal of a small Holtz machine. A very fine wire is stretched through the tube and supported on two glass columns beyond the ends of the tube, and this fine wire is connected to the other terminal of the electric machine. The best procedure is to keep the machine running continuously with its terminals short-circuited. Then the tube is filled with any kind of smoke, the short circuit is quickly removed, and the smoke is seen to be deposited very quickly indeed.

Those who are not familiar with the process may be interested to know the action which takes place, which is as follows: The voltage between the fine wire and the heavy wire or rod is sufficient to cause a continuous corona

<sup>1</sup>The Cottrell process has been placed in the hands of the Research Corporation of New York City; any proceeds which may come from the practical use of the process are to go to the Smithsonian Institution of Washington.