

In reply to a question, the secretary stated that a number of special committees had been formed, consisting of specialists in various groups, and that the general policy had been adopted to confer with these committees upon questions and cases affecting their particular groups. Despite the experience that this method added greatly to the routine of the secretary's office, he felt the policy should be not only continued, but also extended, and he was willing to accept, without confirmation by the section, any special committees chosen by any general committees appointed for that purpose.

In conclusion, the secretary invited attention to the fact that during part of the meeting the secretary of the section had been obliged to be absent from the session, and he therefore moved that the edited copy of the reports, with his marginal notes as to action taken, be accepted as the minutes of the joint meeting. Upon second, this motion prevailed.

C. W. STILES,  
*Secretary of Commission*

At the afternoon general session, the secretary of the commission reported in English upon the resignations, nominations, amendments and resolutions, recommended by the commission, and approved by the Section on Nomenclature, but he did not read the report in full.

The president of the commission gave a résumé of the subject in French, translating most portions of the resolutions verbatim, and adding certain explanatory remarks.

All matters involved were voted upon by the general session, *en bloc* and without discussion (which it had been decided should be confined to

"It would be dangerous to make a law read:

" 'Theft shall be punished by imprisonment for one to ten years, *except* in such cases where the thief has tuberculosis.' But justice is tempered with mercy if one law reads:

" 'Theft shall be punished by imprisonment for one to ten years,' and if another law reads:

" 'The President (or the King) is empowered to *suspend* punishment in certain cases in which, in his judgment, a feeling of humanity demands such a suspension.'

"Suppose, now, it is shown that a thief, who is sentenced to ten years imprisonment, is about to die of tuberculosis; even if the sentence is passed upon him, the President (or the King) could parole or pardon the man in order to permit him to go home to die."

the meeting of the section). Against only four dissenting votes, all the subject matter in question was adopted and approved.

C. W. STILES,  
*Secretary of Commission*

#### APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

On June 24 Governor Dunne signed senate bill 675 carrying an appropriation of \$4,500,000 for the University of Illinois for the biennium 1913-1915.

A correspondent writes:

The signing of this bill by Governor Dunne is one of the most important events in the history of higher education in Illinois.

First of all the passing of this bill indicates that the legislature approved by an overwhelming vote the mill tax for the university which was passed by the preceding legislature, so that all the leading parties, democrats, republicans, progressives and socialists, have endorsed this policy with unanimity. It indicates, too, the high-water mark of the whole history of educational development in the state.

In the second place it marks an epoch on account of the particular form in which the bill was passed since it leaves to the judgment of the board of trustees, within certain broad lines, the use of funds in the development of the institution and puts a stop to tendencies shown in nearly all legislatures to interfere unduly with the management of the institution by itemizing appropriations which have the effect often of thwarting the very purpose for which they were given.

The people of the state are to be congratulated that the university has never entered into politics and that all parties have had an active part in its development. The university was founded under a republican administration, but it was in the régime of a democratic governor—Governor Altgeld—that it received its first large appropriation. It was a republican administration that passed the mill tax, but a democratic one that has made it permanent and initiated a new form of passing the appropriation that marks a new era in the institutional development.

The present legislature has definitely settled another important question—one upon which for years there has been much discussion. In the university bills that were first introduced this year there was an item calling for \$100,000 a year for the support of medical education. A determined

attempt was made in the senate to amend the bill to the effect that no cent of the appropriation should be used for the support of a medical college. The amendment was turned down by a vote of 34 to 9. A similar amendment in the house was defeated by the decisive vote of 94 to 37.

The trustees, therefore, who are chosen by the people, are left with the authority to spend \$100,000 more or less, as it may in their best judgment seem wise, for the support of medical education. There is every reason to think that the trustees will be conservative in the carrying out of the duties entrusted to them by the people of Illinois.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. VICTOR C. VAUGHAN, professor of hygiene and physiological chemistry in the University of Michigan, and dean of the department of medicine and surgery, was elected president of the American Medical Association at the recent Minneapolis meeting.

At the closing session of the meeting in Minneapolis of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, Dean Anthony, of the Tufts Engineering School, was elected president. The next annual meeting will be held at Princeton, N. J.

THE Cannizzaro prize of \$2,000, founded by the late Dr. Ludwig Mond, has been awarded by the Accademia dei Lincei, of Rome, to Mr. Frederick Soddy, F.R.S., lecturer in physical chemistry at the University of Glasgow, for his researches in radioactivity.

THE University of Michigan has conferred the doctorate of laws on Dr. Roscoe Pound, professor in the Harvard Law School, the author of contributions to plant geography, and the degree of doctor of public health on Surgeon General Rupert Blue.

PROFESSOR ALFRED E. BURTON, professor of topographic engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and dean, has been given the degree of doctor of science by Bowdoin College, from which he was graduated in 1878.

THE University of Cincinnati has conferred upon Dr. L. A. Bauer, of the Carnegie Institution, the degree of doctor of science.

THE University of Pennsylvania has conferred the degree of doctor of science on Mr. Witmer Stone, curator of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and editor of *The Auk*.

THE University of Vermont has conferred the degree of doctor of science on Mr. Chas. A. Catlin, chemist of the Rumford Chemical Works, Providence, a graduate of the university in 1872.

DR. WILLIAM J. MAYO, of Rochester, Minn., has been elected foreign correspondent of the Academy of Medicine in Paris.

PROFESSOR DMITRI PETROVITSCH KONOVLOFF, of St. Petersburg, and Professor Alfred Werner, of Zurich, have been elected honorary foreign members of the Chemical Society of London.

PROFESSOR S. A. MITCHELL, of Columbia University, has been appointed director of the Leander McCormick Observatory at the University of Virginia, as successor to Professor Ormond Stone. During the past year Dr. Mitchell has been on sabbatical leave from Columbia and has spent his time at Yerkes Observatory in the photographic determination of stellar paradox and in spectrographic investigations of motion in the line of sight.

THE board of scientific directors of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research announces the following appointments and promotions: The following assistants have been made associates: Frederick Burr LaForge, Ph.D. (chemistry); James Bumgardner Murphy, M.D. (pathology and bacteriology); Gustave Morris Meyer, Sc.D. (chemistry), and Martha Wollstein, M.D. (pathology and bacteriology). Michael Heidelberger, Ph.D., has been promoted from fellow to assistant in chemistry. The following new appointments are announced: Wade Hampton Brown, M.D., associate in pathology and bacteriology; Carroll G. Bull, M.D., assistant in pathology and bacteriology; Frederick Lamont Gates, M.D., fellow in physiology and pharmacology. Dr. G. Canby Robinson, formerly associate in medicine, has been appointed associate professor of medicine at Washington University,