

actual crop correspondent and through him the local producer too late to be of practical service.

As a partial substitute for the printed *Crop Reporter*, a *Weekly News Letter* to crop correspondents will be issued in typewritten facsimile form. This can be prepared and put into the mails sooner than was possible with the printed *Reporter*. It is believed that the weekly news will be far more timely than notices issued heretofore only once a month. Its circulation will be limited to official crop correspondents. The *News Letter* will contain summaries of more important discoveries and recommendations of the various bureaus, divisions and offices.

The *Experiment Station Record*, the *Weather Review* and *North American Fauna* will continue to be issued with certain modifications. The *Yearbook* will be restricted to articles of the magazine type, which, it is believed, will add greatly to the popularity and value of the volume, of which 500,000 copies are printed and distributed annually.

In the department series of bulletins all the publications of the various bureaus, divisions and offices will be printed. These bulletins may be any size from 4 to 60 pages, and will be semi-technical or scientific, or popular in character. They will capitalize for popular use the discoveries of laboratories and scientific specialists.

The series of farmers' bulletins will be continued. The object of these bulletins is to tell the people how to do important things. The bulletins will contain practical, concise and specific and constructional statements with regard to matters relating to farming, stock raising, fruit growing, etc. Under the new plan the bulletins will be reduced in size to from 16 to 20 pages, and will deal particularly with conditions in restricted sections, rather than attempt, as heretofore, to cover the entire country. Much of the information calling for immediate circulation will be issued hereafter in the form of statements to the press instead of being held back as heretofore for weeks until a bulletin could be printed and issued. The publication of bulletins deal-

ing with foreign crop statistics will be discontinued. Material of this character when deemed important will be furnished to the press for the information of the public.

Consideration is being given to the discontinuance of certain annual reports of bureaus now required by law to be printed, with the belief that much of the matter therein contained is unnecessary, while certain portions could be more advantageously and more promptly printed as bulletins of the department. All executive reports of chiefs are to be reduced with the object of confining them to strictly business reports.

The new plan of publication work has been designed primarily to improve the character of the department's publications, and secondarily to prevent waste in distribution, and through the economies effected, a greater output of information will become possible with the available appropriation. Certain changes will be made in the existing form of the publications, designed with a view to improving their appearance, reducing their size and adapting them to wider distribution.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

CHARLES F. MARVIN, professor of meteorology in the U. S. Weather Bureau since 1891, chief of the instrument division, has been appointed chief of the Weather Bureau, to succeed Mr. Willis L. Moore.

THE council of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, has elected the following honorary fellows: Dr. Harvey Cushing, professor of clinical surgery at Harvard University; Dr. W. J. Mayo, surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minn., and Dr. George Crile, professor of surgery at Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

THE trustees of the Beit memorial fellowships, on the advice of the advisory board, have decided to assist further research as to the nature of the virus of sand-fly fever, a disease which is the cause of much sickness in the ships of the Mediterranean Squadron and among the troops stationed at Malta and in certain parts of India and elsewhere. The

army council has approved of Captain P. J. Mærett, R.A.M.C., who has already published papers on the subject, undertaking this research in addition to his military duties at Malta. Captain Mærett will have the title of Beit Memorial Research Fellow.

MME. CURIE has been organizing a radium laboratory in Warsaw, but will return to her laboratory at the Sorbonne in the autumn.

DRS. WILLIAM H. WELCH and Lewellys F. Barker, of the Johns Hopkins University, have sailed for Europe.

DR. JOHN A. FERRELL has been appointed general manager of the hookworm work of the Rockefeller Foundation, with headquarters in Washington.

THE steamship *Eric*, taking the McMillan Crocker Land expedition into the arctic regions, reached Battle Harbor on August 3. She takes on board supplies and outfit landed from the disabled *Diana*, and expected to leave for the north on August 4.

MR. VILHJALMAR STEFANSSON cables to the New York *Times* that the *Karluk* and the *Mary Sachs* sailed from Port Clarence, Alaska, about midnight on July 23. "The *Alaska* will follow in four days and may overtake us near Herschell Island about the middle of August." There are fifteen scientific men and twenty-two others on the three vessels. The outfit is complete for two years, and may be made to last longer. No fear need be felt for the *Karluk* if she is not heard from for two years. The *Alaska* and the *Mary Sachs* should be heard from twice yearly, in October by whalers through Bering Straits, and in January by mounted police through Dawson.

DR. K. TH. PREUSS, of the Berlin Anthropological Museum, will undertake in September explorations in Colombia.

DR. R. S. BASSLER, of the National Museum, Washington, spent two days recently at the Oberlin Geologic Survey Camp at Rich Creek, Va., reviewing with them parts of the early and middle Paleozoic sections exposed in the vicinity. In the evening of July 25 he gave a lecture before the camp students on "Some

Recent Developments in the Theory of Appalachian Stratigraphy."

It was stated in a recent issue of SCIENCE that the Hon. James Wilson, lately Secretary of Agriculture, has been given the degree of doctor of science from the University of Edinburgh. The degree given was doctor of laws, the Scottish universities not conferring the degrees of doctors of science, letters or philosophy *causa honoris*, but only in course.

PROFESSOR M. A. ROSANOFF, of Clark University, has been invited to speak before the *Versammlung deutscher Naturforscher* at the University of Vienna, on the mechanism of esterification and esterhydrolysis. The conference will last from September 21 to 26. Dr. Rosanoff expects to sail on August 26 and to be back early in October. In course of the past academic year Dr. Rosanoff lectured on parts of the same subject before the New York and Northeastern Sections of the American Chemical Society, the research staff of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, the industrial research department of the University of Pittsburgh and the chemical department of Wesleyan University.

THE city authorities of Berlin propose to appropriate \$250,000 for the erection of the Rudolf Virchow House for the Berlin Medical Society.

PROFESSOR JOHN MILNE, distinguished for his work in seismology, died at his home in the Isle of Wight, on July 31, aged sixty-three years.

PROFESSOR CHARLES SIMEON DENNISON, since 1885 professor of descriptive geometry and drawing in the University of Michigan, has died at the age of fifty-four years.

A MISCELLANY in honor of the sixtieth birthday of Dr. William Ridgeway, professor of archeology in Cambridge University, is in course of preparation and will be issued in October. The volume will contain some congratulatory verses by A. D. Godley, public orator in the University of Oxford, Greek verses by Professor John Harrower, a photogravure portrait of Professor Ridgeway, and a series of articles on classics and ancient arche-

ology, medieval literature and history and anthropology and comparative religion. In the latter subjects the contributions are as follows:

E. Thurston, "The Number Seven in Hindoo Mythology."

T. A. Joyce, "The Weeping God."

S. A. Cook, "The Evolution and Survival of Primitive Thought."

J. G. Frazer, "The Serpent and the Tree of Life."

W. Boyd Dawkins, "The Settlement of Britain in the Prehistoric Age."

W. Wright, "The Mandible from the Morphological and Anthropological Point of View."

C. G. Seligmann, "Ancient Egyptian Beliefs in Modern Egypt."

W. L. H. Duckworth, "Craniological Notes."

W. H. R. Rivers, "The Contact of Peoples."

J. Rendell Harris, "The Dioseuri in Byzantium and its Neighborhood."

C. S. Myers, "Primitive Music."

Henry Balfour, "Some Peculiar Fishing Appliances and their Geographical Distribution."

A. C. Haddon, "The Outrigger Canoes of Torres Straits and North Queensland."

J. H. Moulton, "Notes in Iranian Ethnography."

THE British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has awarded research scholarships in agricultural science of the annual value of £150, tenable for three years, to the following candidates, viz.: E. W. Barton (Wales), economics of agriculture; W. Brown (Edinburgh), plant pathology; Miss E. C. V. Cornish (Bristol), dairying; F. L. Engledow (London), genetics; E. J. Holmyard (Cambridge), plant nutrition and soil problems; R. C. Knight (London and Bristol), plant physiology; F. J. Meggitt (Birmingham), agricultural zoology; H. Raistrick (Leeds), animal nutrition; G. O. Sherrard (Dublin), genetics; T. Trought (Cambridge), genetics; G. Williams (Wales), animal nutrition; S. P. Wiltshire (Bristol), plant pathology; Miss T. Redman (London), dairying. The scholarships have been established in connection with the scheme for the promotion of scientific research in agriculture, for the purposes of which the treasury has sanctioned a grant to the board from the development fund; they are designed

to provide for the training of promising students under suitable supervision with a view to enable them to contribute to the development of agricultural science.

THE new Natural History Department of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery was formally opened on July 17. The museum, as we learn from *Nature*, comprises four galleries, one of which is not yet opened, having been reserved for the Beale Memorial Collection, which is to consist of nesting groups of British birds. The collections, which have been arranged by Mr. W. H. Edwards, contain representatives of most sections of natural history, though birds, shells and insects predominate at the present time.

THE late Miss Henriette Hertz, who died at Rome on April 9, has, according to the *London Times*, left the following benefactions to the British Academy: £2,000 for an annual lecture or investigation or paper on a philosophical problem, or some problem in the philosophy of western or eastern civilization in ancient and modern times; £2,000 for an annual lecture or investigation or paper on some problem or aspect of the relation of art (in any of its manifestations) to human culture, art to include poetry and music as well as sculpture, painting; £1,000 for an annual public lecture on some master mind, considered individually with reference to his life and work, specially in order to appraise the essential elements of his genius, the subjects to be chosen from the great philosophers, artists, poets, musicians; £1,000, the income of which is to be used to promote the publication of some philosophical work to reward some meritorious publication in the department of philosophy. The testatrix has also left the sum of £1,500 to Girton College, the income to be used for the endowment of archeological research. Her main benefaction is devoted to the foundation of the "Bibliotheca Hertziana" in the Pal  zza Zuccari, for the promotion of Renaissance studies.

THE inroads of the chestnut bark disease, or chestnut blight, on the chestnut trees of New England and the Middle Atlantic States

is resulting in the death of a great deal of chestnut timber. Officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture recommend, to prevent the spread of the disease, that shipments of chestnut timber should include only material from which the bark has been removed and from which the diseased spots have been cut out. In the region affected there is a good market for all chestnut products except cordwood. The demand for poles and ties absorbs all that are offered, and lumber finds ready sale in local markets. Cordwood, however, is often a drug except within shipping distance of tanning extract plants, brass foundries, lime kilns, brick yards and charcoal plants. The question has arisen as to whether the disease-killed timber is less valuable than that from green trees. Strength tests made by the Forest Service indicate that sound wood from chestnut killed by the bark disease is as strong as that from green timber. The bark disease kills the tree by girdling the trunk, and does not cause unsound or decayed wood, which is the result of attack by fungi or insects. Until two years after the death of the tree the wood generally remains sound, though at the end of that time insects have commenced working in the sapwood. Three years after death the sapwood is honeycombed with insect burrows; in four years it has decayed, and begins to dry and peel off in the fifth year. After this the heartwood checks badly. To avoid loss, therefore, all timber should be used within two years after being killed. At a recent meeting in Trenton, N. J., foresters were present from most of the states in which the chestnut bark disease is prevalent. Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and the Forest Service and the Bureau of Plant Industry were represented. Representatives of the states approved the investigations undertaken by the Forest Service, and recommended that the individual states give particular attention to the development of local markets for stands of blight-killed chestnut. Owners of such timber should apply to the state foresters or to the Forest Service for further information upon the uses and markets for chestnut.

WE learn from *Nature* that a large number of distinguished physiologists, biologists and medical men have signed a letter addressed to the home secretary directing attention to the scientific aspects of the administration of the Mental Deficiency Bill. The signatories desire to secure the continuous prosecution of research into the conditions on which mental deficiency depends, and into the means by which it might be remedied or prevented. They point out that it may be said, in a general way, that the conditions in question must be due either to defective formation and development of the active structures of some portion or portions of the brain, or to defective formation or supply of the fluids by which these structures are surrounded, and by which they are stimulated to activity. For example, one common form of idiocy is consequent upon the absence from the blood of the secretion which should be furnished by the thyroid gland, and may be remedied by the administration of thyroid extract derived from lower animals. The Mental Deficiency Bill will probably bring together many of its subjects into institutions controlled by the state, and supported by the public. It is therefore urged that the facilities for scientific study which such institutions would afford should be fully utilized for the general benefit of the community, and that the duty of so utilizing them should be committed to men of science, fully conversant with all that is already known in relation to the subject, and able to point out the directions in which further inquiry should be pursued. It is suggested that the objects in view could scarcely be obtained except by an adequate representation of biological science upon any commission to which the administration of the law may be entrusted.

AN agricultural colony in Palestine has applied to the U. S. Forest Service for help in planting trees to bind the drifting sands of the Mediterranean. The colony is near Jaffa, or Yafa, the ancient Joppa of the Bible, and there is being developed in connection with it a seaside resort, with hotel, villas, bath houses and gardens. The experts of the service point out that the reclamation of sand dunes is not a serious problem in the eastern

United States because the prevailing winds are from the land and the sand is blown into the sea. On the west coast the situation is more serious. The most notable example of reclaimed sand areas there is furnished by Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, where grasses, acacias and, later, trees and shrubs have converted sand wastes into pleasure grounds of great beauty. The attention of the Palestine colony is called to the wonderful reclamation of the Landes, France, where a wealth-producing forest of maritime pine, the source of the French turpentine, has been grown to take the place of shifting dunes. The American foresters also give the address of the French seedsman who furnished this government with the maritime pine seed which has been used in planting experiments on the Florida national forest, near the Gulf coast.

THE Secretary of Agriculture has signed an agreement with the state of North Carolina for a cooperative study of forest conditions in the eastern piedmont region. The work will be carried on by the forest service and by the state geological and economic survey with one half of the cost paid by each. The study will determine the distribution and proportion of forest lands, and the relative value of lands for timber and for agriculture. It will take into account the present status of lumbering, the causes and effects of forest fires, and will recommend a system of fire protection and of forest planting. The study arranged supplements two already completed in the more mountainous regions of the state. The first, a study of forest conditions in the Appalachians, has been published as a state report. A study of the forests of the western piedmont region was completed recently and the results are being prepared for publication. When the study of the eastern piedmont region is finished it is planned to proceed to a similar study of the coastal plain region, so that eventually the entire state will be covered by a forest survey.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GOVERNOR TENER, of Pennsylvania, has, after revision, approved the following state appropriations made at the last session of the

legislature: The Pennsylvania State College, \$1,240,000, in addition to income from Land Grant Fund and congressional appropriation to Land Grant Colleges; University of Pennsylvania, \$820,000; University of Pittsburgh, \$400,000 and Temple University, \$100,000, making the total state appropriation for higher education \$2,560,000.

FRANKLIN COLLEGE, Indiana, has secured pledges aggregating two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for additional endowment. Three sixteenths of this amount is from the General Education Board.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE has received \$30,000 as the residuary legatee of the late Henry M. Barnum.

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY, emeritus professor in University College, London, has given the college £500 for books and journals for the chemical library.

THE medical department of Tulane University will hereafter be known as the Tulane College of Medicine and will be divided into four schools, each with a separate dean and staff, namely: the School of Medicine and Pharmacy, dean, Dr. Isadore Dyer; the Post-Graduate School, dean, Dr. Charles Chassaignac; the School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, dean, Dr. Creighton Wellman, and Dentistry, dean, Dr. Andrew Friedrichs. The following elections and changes have been made in the Post-Graduate School: Dr. Henry Dickson Bruns, transferred from the emeritus to the active list, as professor of diseases of the eye; Dean Creighton Wellman, elected professor of tropical diseases and preventive medicine; Dr. J. T. Halsey, elected professor of clinical therapeutics; Dr. C. C. Bass, elected professor of clinical microscopy; Dr. W. W. Butterworth, elected professor of diseases of children, and Dr. George S. Bel, elected professor of internal medicine.

PROFESSOR W. A. STOCKING, JR., of the dairy department of the New York State Agricultural College at Cornell University, has been appointed to succeed Dr. L. H. Bailey as acting director of the Agricultural College.

MRS. ELLA FLAGG YOUNG has withdrawn her resignation as superintendent of the Chicago