

or authors of the best original work of embryology or cytology written or published during the three years preceding the date on which competing theses must be received. For the first competition this date is December 31, 1915. The manuscript works may be signed or anonymous, and the French, German, or English language may be employed. Authors should send their contributions to the permanent secretary of the academy, Palais des Académies, Brussels, inscribed "Concours pour le Prix Pierre-J. et Edouard Van Beneden."

PRESIDENT WILSON, in his annual address to members of Congress, referred to the United States Bureau of Mines in the following manner: "Our Bureau of Mines ought to be equipped and empowered to render even more effectual service than it renders now in improving the conditions of mine labor and making the mines more economically productive as well as more safe. This is an all-important part of the work of conservation; and the conservation of human life and energy lies even nearer to our interest than the preservation from waste of our material resources."

THE British home secretary has appointed a committee to inquire what action has been taken under the Wild Birds Protection Acts for the protection of wild birds and to consider whether any amendments of the law or improvements in its administration are required. The members of the committee are: The Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P., under-secretary of state for India (chairman); Lord Lucas, parliamentary secretary to the board of agriculture; Mr. Frank Elliott, of the home office; Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant and Mr. Hugh S. Gladstone. The secretary to the committee is Mr. H. R. Scott, of the home office.

THE annual inspection trip of the department of electrical engineering of the University of Illinois took place November 23-26. The trip was under the charge of Professors E. B. Paine, Morgan Brooks, E. H. Waldo and J. M. Bryant. The party was divided into two sections. One section visited the

Keokuk water power plant, while the other visited the industries around Joliet, Illinois. The sections met in Chicago, where the trip was concluded. Features of the trip were the inspection of the parts of the Commonwealth Edison system in Chicago, the Hawthorne works of the Western Electric Company and the Illinois Steel Works.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT is made at Yale University that the new biological laboratories are to be called the "Osborn Memorial Laboratories." The funds, amounting to half a million dollars, were provided for in the will of the late Mrs. Miriam A. Osborn. The laboratories accommodate the departments of zoology, comparative anatomy and botany.

REGULATIONS for admission to the military academy at West Point have been modified so that without lowering the entrance requirements prospective cadets may be matriculated by substituting equivalents for some of the units of study hitherto insisted upon. Hereafter a candidate for admission may be excused from mental examination upon presentation of certificate that he is a regularly enrolled student in good standing in a university, college or technological school, the entrance requirements of which include proficiency in mathematics and English as outlined by the college entrance examination board, or a certificate that he has graduated from a preparatory school meeting the requirements of that board, or a certificate that he has passed fourteen units of the entrance examinations required by the board requiring mathematics, English and history.

RECOMMENDATION has been made to the Argentine Congress to send to America for two years' study at government expense two professors from each faculty of each national university.

MRS. ELLA FLAGG YOUNG has resigned as superintendent of Schools of the City of Chicago because certain members of the board voted against her re-election. It is now said

that these members of the board have resigned and that Mrs. Young may accept the election.

DR. LIVINGSTON FARRAND, professor of anthropology in Columbia University, has been elected president of the University of Colorado.

PRESIDENT THOMAS F. KANE, of the University of Washington, was removed from office on December 12 by the board of regents, who unanimously adopted a resolution declaring the office vacant. The action was the climax of an agitation that has lasted three years, in which a majority of the faculty and students are said to have aligned themselves against President Kane.

AMONG new appointments at the University of Montana are: N. J. Lennes, Ph.D. (Chicago), instructor in Columbia University for the past three years, to be head of the department of mathematics, and A. George Heilman, M.D. (Pennsylvania), to be instructor in biology and physiology.

DR. W. T. GORDON has been appointed lecturer and head of the geological department at King's College, London, in succession to Dr. T. F. Sibly, appointed professor of geology at the University of South Wales, Cardiff.

DR. G. OWEN, lecturer in physics at Liverpool University, has been appointed professor of physics at Auckland University College, New Zealand.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

MORE PALEOLITHIC ART

By degrees paleolithic stations are being re-discovered. The large rock shelter of La Colombière, valley of the Ain, some thirty miles southwest of Geneva, is an example. Known since 1875 it had been only superficially explored. The important discoveries of Dr. Lucien Mayet, of the University of Lyons, and M. Jean Pissot, of Poncin, date from October, 1913; and were first announced through the Paris Academy of Sciences on October 20. The trench they dug revealed in section: (1) neolithic at the top; (2) a Magdalenian horizon, the upper section of which with the neolithic had been disturbed by earlier in-

vestigators; (3) a layer of fine sand with débris from the overhanging rock, one meter thick, in which no relics were found, representing a long period of non-habitation by man; (4) Aurignacian layer with fossil remains of the mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, reindeer and horse. Here also was a workshop left by Aurignacian man, flint tools and rare engravings characteristic of the epoch.

The principal find is a large fragment of mammoth bone on which are engraved human figures; a head and upper part of the body including an out-stretched arm and hand; likewise a figure with head and feet missing, probably a female. Both these engravings are in profile, the view easiest to master by a primitive artist working in outline. Fairly good examples of the human form in the round and in relief dating back to the Aurignacian epoch are already known. Engraved figures are rare and so far as the head is concerned are little more than caricatures. The example from La Colombière is no exception in this respect and curiously enough resembles certain engraved human heads previously reported, one from the cavern of Font-de-Gaume (Dordogne), one from the Grotte des Fées (Gironde), and others from Les Combarelles (Dordogne) and Marsoulas (Haute-Garonne). In the Aurignacian layer were also found pebbles with engraved figures of the bison, *Felis*, horse, and wild sheep. When it is recalled that four fifths of all Quaternary engravings are animal figures, the bison and horse predominating, the importance of these two human figures from La Colombière at once becomes evident.

GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY

YALE UNIVERSITY

ON INTERFERENCE COLORS IN CLOUDS

THE writer has, for some time, noticed certain colors in clouds as they pass near the sun, and more careful observation indicates that an interesting effect is present which may not hitherto have been described. If the clouds within an angle of 15°, or so, from the sun are examined carefully, the sun, itself, being hidden by the corner of a