

psychology and zoology. The entire equipment and the collections of each of these four sciences are destroyed, and the department libraries of geology, physics and zoology. As a consequence, these departments are seriously crippled and are in great need of assistance.

The collections of the geology department were very valuable and some were very rare mineral specimens. Recently many new cases had been acquired and space for exhibition. The lantern of this department was the only piece of apparatus that survived the fire, but the thousands of lantern slides were destroyed.

The more important losses to physics are lantern slides, collection of crystals, a unique collection of Nicol prisms, and complete files of the important scientific journals, some dating back to 1800.

Besides the actual equipment, the most serious loss to the psychology department is the destruction of its records of experiments, memory and intelligence tests on normal and abnormal subjects, the results of several years of work.

The zoology museum was far richer than was generally known. It was inadequately housed and crowded, and its specimens were never displayed to advantage. The collections represented the results of many years of labor and of careful selection, and were essentially study collections, planned for special courses, and constantly in use by different groups of students. The losses which will be felt most keenly by the individual courses are the North American birds and insects, the general invertebrate collections, recently enriched by material from the zoological station at Naples, the mounted and disarticulated skeletons, the histology and embryology slides, and the physiology apparatus.

The personal losses of the teaching staff are very great. In the zoology and psychology departments alone, original work, drawings, notes, collections, microscopes and apparatus, books and reprints, all are gone.

Aid has come already in generous measure to the four stricken departments from many colleges and museums near Boston, from Clark University, Mt. Holyoke College, the

University of Pennsylvania, Vassar College, and from former students and friends of Wellesley; and material has been lent and given that will enable the scientific courses to reopen with the rest of the college on April 7, in the laboratories of the departments of astronomy, botany, chemistry and hygiene, all of which are in separate buildings and are therefore untouched by this disaster.

Our future needs are very great, buildings, equipment, material for work, museum specimens, books. May the realization of these needs bring yet more help to our support.

CAROLINE BURLING THOMPSON
WELLESLEY COLLEGE

THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

THE president of the University of Iowa has, under the date of March 20, 1914, addressed to the Iowa State Board of Education, the following letter:

By this letter I submit to you my resignation as president of the State University of Iowa, to take effect at your earliest convenience. Some explanation of this action is due to you and to those interested in the welfare of the university. Such explanation follows:

At the meeting of your board held at Cedar Falls, March 11, you considered in executive session a number of administrative matters concerning the university. Among other things at that time you dismissed a professor of the university without a hearing and without the knowledge or advice of the chief executive of the institution. Whether or not the facts, if you have them, warranted the professor's dismissal is not now the issue to which I call your attention; and I pass over for the moment the obvious fact that the professor himself had a right to be heard. I can not avoid the inference that your action is deliberately intended to express lack of confidence in the administration of the university.

Before I came to the university in 1911 I asked you in writing to consider thoroughly the step you proposed; it was for you to decide whether or not I was the man for the place and I called your attention to this fact. As part of the terms on which I finally accepted the position you agreed in writing that all recommendations for appoint-

ment and for dismissal in the university should come through my office to your board. This is the procedure in any well-governed university. At that time, also, I asked explicitly that if at any time you should feel that you would be more comfortable with another man in my position, you express to me frankly that feeling; and I stated that I would, then, with good will, promptly retire. To this also you agreed.

I can not but regret that when the time came to act under this agreement, you did not do so, frankly and honorably. You had only to ask for my resignation to receive it at once. The course you adopted to accomplish the same object is unworthy of yourselves, unjust to me, and involves a still more serious injustice to another man whose case should have been considered on its merits after proper hearing and investigation, and not entirely subordinated, as I believe it was, to the evident desire to raise, quite needlessly, a personal issue between your board and myself.

It is not my purpose to dwell on this point, however. Interpreting your action as I have no doubt it was intended, and conforming on my own part to the understanding on which I came here, I willingly withdraw from a position which I accepted only at your earnest solicitation and which I have no desire to retain unless I can demand and receive your entire support. I do this with the less regret because as I recall the issues which have arisen between us and which have led to your present attitude, I am as firmly as ever convinced that the ideals and policies which I have held for the university during the past two and one half years have been right and educationally sound; that no single instance of personal politics or self-seeking on my own part has contributed to our differences; and that if you had chosen to give me a reasonable opportunity for working out these ideals and policies they would have justified themselves in ample measure by the results.

If it were possible that I have exaggerated the significance of your action in its relation to myself, my course would still be the same. No man can be held accountable for his responsibility unless his authority is respected, or for his policies unless he is given a free hand to carry them out. This principle is recognized in all well-governed colleges and universities, as it is in every well-organized business. The efficient government of this university on any other basis is impossible, and I could not be a party to so hopeless an experiment even if it were your desire that I should.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, to be held in Washington on April 21, 22 and 23, the William Ellery Hale Lectures will be inaugurated by two lectures on "The Constitution of Matter and the Evolution of the Elements," by Sir Ernest Rutherford, of the University of Manchester.

A SPECIAL convocation held at Oxford on March 24 conferred the degree of doctor of science on Surgeon General Gorgas.

THE Fothergill gold medal of the Medical Society of London for 1914 has been awarded to Dr. John George Adami, F.R.S., LL.D., Strathcona professor of pathology and bacteriology at McGill University, for his work on pathology and its application to practical medicine and surgery.

WE learn from *Nature* that the council of the University of Birmingham has appointed Professor Charles Lapworth emeritus professor of geology in recognition of his services during his occupation of the chair of geology. The senate recently signaled his retirement by the presentation of an address and a gift of plate, and on March 11 another presentation was made to him by a large number of his old students.

THE last number of the *Münchener medizinische Wochenschrift* is a special issue in honor of the sixtieth birthday of Professor Ehrlich, which occurred on March 14.

DR. LAWRENCE MARTIN, of the University of Wisconsin, has been elected a corresponding member of the International Committee on Glaciers.

MR. R. J. POCKOCK, of Queen's College, Oxford, has been appointed to direct the observatory of the Nizam of Hyderabad.

PROFESSOR F. KEEBLE, F.R.S., professor of botany, University College, Reading, has been appointed director of the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley.

DR. JOHN W. COLBERT, Albuquerque, has been asked by the Rockefeller Foundation to assume charge of its research work in a campaign to be inaugurated for the eradication