

Pittsburgh, on "Some Transient Electrical Phenomena," and on the evening of the same day, a paper before the Pittsburgh section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, a paper on "The Preparation and Qualifications of a Teacher in Engineering." On May 13, he addressed the students of the University of Pittsburgh on the "Electrification of Steam Railroads."

At the University of Glasgow on commemoration day, June 23, an oration on Lord Lister will be delivered by Sir Hector C. Cameron.

PROFESSOR RUDOLF TOMBO, JR., of the department of Germanic languages, Columbia University, known also to readers of this journal for his articles on "University Registration Statistics," died on May 22.

WE regret also to record the death of Mr. Herman Frasch, the industrial chemist, at one time chief chemist of the Standard Oil Company.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE is a beneficiary in the will of Mr. William Runkle to the amount of \$100,000.

THE South Wales and Monmouthshire University College at Cardiff has received from an anonymous donor funds for the erection of a school of preventive medicine. The money value of this gift, together with that of Sir William James Thomas to erect a school for other branches of medicine in connection with the college, is estimated at £180,000.

THE cornerstone of the Julius Rosenwald Hall at the University of Chicago will be laid on the morning of Convocation Day, June 9. The address will be given by Professor T. C. Chamberlin, head of the department of geology, who has been connected with the university since its founding.

THE new building of the department of forestry of the New York State College of Agriculture was formally opened on May 15. Among those who made addresses were Professor James W. Toumey, director of the Yale

Forest School; Dr. Henry S. Drinker, president of Lehigh University, Mr. Gifford Pinchot and Dr. L. H. Bailey.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the School of Mines at Columbia University is being celebrated this week. On Thursday night there is a reception in the gymnasium. On Friday morning there will be a convocation at which honorary degrees will be conferred upon a number of eminent graduates of the School of Mines, and there will be addresses by Professor H. S. Munroe, Mr. T. W. Rickard and Mr. Hennen Jennings. In the afternoon the first lecture on the Chandler Foundation will be given by Dr. Leo H. Baekeland. The celebration will close with a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in the evening, at which Professor J. F. Kemp will preside.

THE foundation stone of the new School of Tropical Medicine at Calcutta, for the site and laboratory of which the government of India has appropriated \$195,000, was laid recently by the governor of Bengal. The *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the institute will accept students from all over the world, and it is hoped that students of medical research institutions of the United States may be sent to the school for study. Communications regarding the school should be addressed to Lieut.-Col. Leonard Rogers, I. M. S., Medical School, Calcutta.

A NEW department, that of hygiene and bacteriology, has been created at the University of Chicago by the board of trustees. The chairman of the department is Edwin Oakes Jordan, professor of bacteriology, and associated with him in the work of the department are Assistant Professor Norman MacLeod Harris and Dr. Paul Gustav Heinemann. During the present quarter also Associate Professor William Buchanan Wherry, of the University of Cincinnati college of medicine, is giving courses in advanced bacteriology and parasitology. The work in bacteriology was formerly included in the department of pathology and bacteriology, which now becomes the department of pathology, with Professor Ludvig Hektoen as head.

VARIOUS sub-departments of geology at Cornell University have been consolidated under one head and the committee of professors which has hitherto administered the affairs of the department has been dissolved. Professor Heinrich Ries has been appointed head of the department.

MONEY is being collected to endow a professorship of railroading in the Graduate School of Business and Administration of Harvard University, to be named in honor of Mr. James J. Hill.

DEGREES will be conferred at commencement upon 101 University of Illinois matriculants of the years 1868-92, who completed 36 term credits and did not receive degrees. The belated degrees will be conferred as of the classes to which they belonged. These were not granted at the usual time because the students did not follow courses exactly prescribed.

CHARLES SCHUCHERT, professor of paleontology, has been elected acting dean of the graduate school of Yale University for next year in the absence abroad of Dean Oertel.

DR. FREDERICK A. SANDERS, professor of physics of Syracuse University, has been appointed head of the physics department of Vassar College.

DR. C. C. ADAMS, of the zoology department of the University of Illinois, has accepted the position of assistant professor of forest zoology in the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University.

HERBERT FISHER MOORE, assistant professor of theoretical and applied mechanics in the engineering experiment station of the University of Illinois, has been promoted to be professor of engineering materials.

MR. E. R. BURDON has been appointed university lecturer in forestry at the University of Cambridge.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### MODESTY OVERWORKED

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I am very loath to be drawn into the controversy on nomen-

clature, but in a recent number of SCIENCE (April 24) Professor Verrill has seen fit to hold me up to obloquy for having wantonly violated two rules, one of which is of his own selection. I do not intend to discuss the advisability of this rule further than to enquire who is to be the arbiter of what is "obviously obscene"? Professor Verrill evidently regards *Urticina felina* as an appellation falling under this category, while others, equally modest, might reject *Metridium*, which he accepts with equanimity. Even granting that certain Linnean names in their original form might bring a blush to the cheek of some *casta Minerva*, are they therefore, in their modern associations, to be rejected on that ground alone? Surely such a principle, consistently applied, would deprive the world of many of its greatest possessions in science, literature and art! *Honi soit qui mal y pense!*

Nor do I intend to notice the personalities contained in Professor Verrill's letter, but, when he disputes the correctness of my conclusions as to the validity of the names *Metridium senile* and *Urticina felina* he is entering upon a criticism to which one may reply. His contention that *Priapus senilis* and *P. felinus* are unidentifiable from Linnæus's descriptions I have fully recognized, but I also showed that Linnæus himself, in the twelfth edition of the "Systema," furnished the basis for their correct identification, by giving as references for them the recognizable figures in Baster's "Opuscula subseciva," a work that Professor Verrill carefully refrains from mentioning. It is quite unnecessary to repeat here the facts and arguments in support of this view, as they are fully set forth in my paper, whose main object, so far as these two species were concerned, was to show that the confusion that has arisen in the synonymy of their Linnean names was quite unnecessary and that these names are valid according to the ordinary rules of priority. Professor Verrill thinks otherwise and prefers the specific terms *dianthus* and *crassicornis*; but why does he reject Pennant's *pentapetala*, which apparently antedates *dianthus*? Surely it, too, can