

"FREEDOM" AND FEES

It will, perhaps, do no harm to speak a little plainly of some aspects of the inquiry just instituted by the American Political Science Association into "the present situation in American educational institutions as to liberty of thought, freedom of speech, and security of tenure for teachers of political science." . . . The one point in the definition of the field of inquiry made by the association that is open to doubt and to discussion is "the security of tenure for teachers of political science." Here is where the assumptions to which we have referred come in. The gist of the matter is in the question how far a teacher of political science or of any other subject is entitled to retain his place and his pay when his teaching is not satisfactory to the trustees who are responsible for the institution in which he is employed.

That question is in some degree begged by the coupling of security of tenure with freedom of speech, as if the right to the former went with the right to the latter and as if a man not only had an inalienable right to teach whatever he chose, but a right equally inalienable to be paid for teaching it. That theory seems to us to need only to be stated to be rejected. It appears to us too clear to require discussion that the trustees of any institution of education ought not and can not surrender absolutely all control over the teaching in that institution to the men or the women who at any given moment happen to hold places in it. Nor is the matter changed materially if the trustees agree to turn over the control of the teaching to the faculty or to certain members of it. . . . Possibly the committee of the Political Science Association, with due study and reflection, in cooperation with like bodies, may be able to present some general rules or principles that may be useful. In the mean time it does no harm to suggest at the outset that there is no necessary, or even close, connection between the right to freedom of speech and the claim to be paid for speaking out of the funds of an institution the managers of which regard the speaking as mischievous.—*New York Times*.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Lebensgewohnheiten und Instinkte der Insekten bis zum Erwachen der sozialen Instinkte, geschildert von O. M. REUTER. Vom Verfasser revidierte Uebersetzung nach dem schwedischen Manuskript besorgt von A. und M. Buch. R. Friedländer und Sohn, Berlin, 1913. Pp. xvi + 448; 84 text-figures.

This is the first of three volumes which Dr. O. M. Reuter planned to publish on the habits and instincts of insects. It treats only of the solitary species; the other volumes were to be devoted to the Socialia and to a general account of the sense-organs and the comparative psychology of insects. Most regrettably death has intervened to prevent the author from carrying out his plan and we are left with a single volume, which, however, is complete in itself.

The general account of insect behavior with which the work opens follows conventional lines. The activities are regarded as largely "instinctive," though the author is careful to state that some of them may properly be called "intelligent." Owing to the close association of instincts and bodily organization, he speaks of a "morphology of instincts and habits" and throughout the work views them from the evolutionary, or genetic standpoint. They are classified on a teleological basis, however, according to the problems which the insects have to solve in their daily lives. After an introductory chapter on the active and quiescent stages and the length of life of insects, the habits are arranged rather roughly under three heads, according as they subserve the purposes of nutrition, protection or reproduction.

The consideration of food-habits, though comprehensive, presents little that is new, the species being divided into omnivorous (Pantophaga), herbivorous (Phytophaga) and carnivorous (Sarcophaga). The two latter groups are each subdivided into Monophaga and Polyphaga, according as the insects derive their food from a single plant or animal or from several species. Two other groups of insects, the Necrophaga and Coprophaga, which feed on corpses and excrement, respectively, are also recognized. Parasitism is included under