

at Santa Marta, and Mr. Robert Sargent, Americans residing near Santa Marta. Through their efforts the party was provided with splendid facilities for field work and received substantial assistance in gathering material. The Colombian government permitted the free entrance of the equipment.

The collections of the expedition are now being studied by a number of investigators, and the results will be published from time to time as the studies are completed.

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#### *THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS*

A CORRESPONDENT at the University of Illinois asks us to print the following communication:

In order to ascertain whether or not a persistent rumor that he had not the support of the faculty, was true, President Edmund J. James, of the University of Illinois, submitted the matter to a referendum vote of those of the faculty elected for two years or longer. The result was overwhelmingly against the rumor—188 expressing confidence in the president as against four who voted in the negative. At a later meeting a vote of instructors and assistants—those holding positions of one year tenure—revealed an even greater degree of confidence, but one dissenting voice arising. The latter meeting was called on the initiative of the men themselves.

The procedure was unique in American universities. Indeed the American university system has been criticized to the effect that the president or head has the power of an autocrat. Autocratic power, all history shows, is unsafe in any man's hands, as it soon becomes too dear to his heart. Therefore when a man elected to the presidency of a great university voluntarily submits the question of his own efficiency to the vote—a secret ballot—of his force, the act has signal significance.

During the ten years that Dr. James has served as president the university has made phenomenal growth in revenue, equipment, faculty, attendance and general standing. The commonwealth has been liberal; trustees, members of the faculty, alumni and other friends of the university have cooperated heartily in bringing about this result. The presi-

dent felt, naturally, that he also had been a factor in this upbuilding, that unless this was so after ten years of persistent and laborious work, his presence in such an institution as its head was a mistake. As a consequence he submitted the following to a referendum vote of the faculty: "I want to know whether in your opinion my administration as president of the University of Illinois during the past ten years has been liberal and progressive, and has promoted the substantial development of the institution on broad and scholarly lines, and whether as president I have the regard and cooperation of the faculty. On this proposition I ask you to vote either yes or no."

The result on a secret ballot was, as stated above, 188 to 4, in favor of confidence in the president.

Previous to this endorsement by the faculty the Illini Club of Chicago, consisting of 1,000 graduates, had expressed to the president their most unqualified approval in a set of resolutions passed at its annual business meeting.

Following this the pastors of some nineteen churches in the twin cities of Urbana-Champaign, including the Y. M. C. A.'s, Methodists, Catholics, and practically all denominations represented in the cities, sent a special delegation bearing a series of signed resolutions to President James expressing their confidence in him and their pleasure in the many evidences of the university's progress.

Still later the Alumnae Association of Chicago addressed a letter to President James saying among other things. "It is the earnest hope and wish of every member that you continue to serve as president in the work which has made possible the constant growth, the increasing influence and the general development of the University of Illinois."

#### *THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION EXPOSITION TO TORRES STRAITS*

THE expedition of the department of marine biology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington has returned from the region of Torres Straits where it visited the islands between New Guinea and Cape York, Australia, remaining for the greater part of the time upon Maer Island, one of the Murray Islands, on the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef south of the Bligh Entrance.

In response to Ambassador Bryce's letters of introduction the Governor of Queensland and

of New Guinea received the members of the expedition with a courtesy and kindness which contributed materially to its success.

The expedition was under the leadership of Dr. Alfred G. Mayer, with whom were associated Dr. Hubert Lyman Clark, of Harvard, Dr. E. Newton Harvey, of Princeton, Frank A. Potts, of Cambridge University, Professor D. H. Tennent, of Bryn Mawr College, and Mr. E. M. Grosse, of Sydney, whose excellent colored drawings served to illustrate the living aspects of the echinoderms which were collected by Dr. Clark.

The expedition was well equipped with apparatus and provided with a naptha launch, Mr. John Mills, of the department of marine biology, being the engineer.

For littoral echinoderms there is probably no richer region in the world than that of the Murray Islands, lying as they do about 70 miles south of New Guinea and within 6 miles of the outer line of the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. At Maer Island alone Dr. Clark collected about 150 species of echinoderms, and about 100 of these were beautifully figured by Mr. Grosse. Clark also found that crinoids are more active than has been generally supposed, some species being able to swim actively through the water.

Professor Tennent succeeded in effecting a cross between a male crinoid and the echini, and at Badu Island he obtained abundant material upon echinoderm crosses for an extensive cytological study.

Dr. Harvey found a holothurian, certain living pigments of which change purple in alkalis and red in acids, and he was thus enabled to determine the relation between the rate of penetration and the degree of dissociation of electrolytes.

Mr. Potts conducted several interesting ecological studies upon the habits of crustacea, and Dr. Mayer made an intensive study of the coral reefs, discovering that temperature is a factor of primary importance in determining the growth of corals. Those corals which are most resistant to high temperatures are those which are best able to withstand being buried beneath the mud, and this suggests that high

temperature produces death by asphyxiation.

Certain coral beds at Thursday Island, Cape York, Australia, which were measured and photographed by Saville-Kent in 1890 were remeasured in 1913 and species of Porites and Symphyllia were found to have grown in diameter at an average rate of 1.8 to 1.98 inches per annum, or about 44 inches in 23 years.

The health of the members of the expedition was good throughout the period of their investigations, and some interesting papers may be expected to be published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington as a result of their studies.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. CHARLES RICHET, professor of physiology at the University of Paris, has been elected a member of the section of medicine and surgery of the Paris Academy of Sciences to replace the late Dr. Lucas-Championnière.

PROFESSOR L. MANOUVRIER, Paris; Professor Karl von den Steinen, Berlin; Dr. Alfred P. Maudslay, London; his Excellency W. Radloff, St. Petersburg, and Professor Émile Cartailhac, Toulouse, have been elected to honorary membership in the American Anthropological Association.

DR. CARL HUGO KRONECKER, professor of physiology at Berne, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on January 27.

OFFICERS of the Cincinnati Research Society have been elected as follows: *President*, Dr. Oscar Berghausen; *Vice-president*, Dr. E. R. Remelin; *Secretary*, Dr. J. L. Tuechter; *Executive Committee*, Dr. H. McE. Knowler and Dr. Charles Goosman.

THE Syracuse chapter of Sigma Xi has initiated as non-resident members: Dr. Robert S. Breed and Dr. Ulysses P. Hedrick, of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, and Dr. William J. Miller, of Hamilton College.

PROFESSOR C. E. SHERMAN, of the civil engineering department of the Ohio State University, has undertaken a complete examination on the summit level of the Ohio canal through