

A NUMBER of Herefordshire teachers came out on strike on January 31 owing to the refusal of the local education authority to establish a scale of salaries, whereby if a teacher's record is satisfactory his pay shall increase automatically until a maximum is reached. We learn from the London *Times* that the strikers include the head teachers of about 80 out of some 176 schools. In addition, there are schools where assistants and not the headmasters or mistresses are ceasing work. More resignations will fall due as the weeks pass, until at the end of March 117 head teachers out of 189 employed will be idle, and, including assistants, a total of 223. Before the teachers' threat to strike the average salary of headmasters was £111, against an average for all the British counties of £146 6s., and the average salary of head mistresses was £88 16s., against £100 8s. for the English counties. There were similar disproportions in the salaries of class teachers. The local education authority, admitting that the salaries paid in Herefordshire were low, increased the salaries of certain teachers in December last by amounts totalling £1,300 a year.

DR. ETHELBERT D. WARFIELD has resigned the presidency of Lafayette College.

DR. GEORGE E. BREWER has been appointed to the chair of surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. Dr. Walter B. James has asked to be relieved from membership in the medical faculty. He will retain his professorship and continue to direct research students from time to time.

J. F. McCLENDON, of Cornell Medical College, New York City, has accepted a position in the department of physiology, University of Minnesota Medical School.

DR. WATSON MARSHALL has been appointed demonstrator in laryngology in the School of Medicine of the University of Pittsburgh.

DR. MARIENNE PLEHN, assistant in the biological laboratory at Munich, has been made professor. She is said to be the fifth woman to receive this title in German universities.

DR. AUGUST BRAUER, director of the zoological museum of the University of Berlin, has

been called to a professorship at Bonn, but it is expected that he will remain at Berlin.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE CYTOLOGICAL TIME OF MUTATION IN TOBACCO

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for January 2, 1914, there is described a mutation that occurred in a variety of the common tobacco which gives promise to become of great economic value. In the article referred to it was assumed that the germinal change must have occurred after fertilization because the aberrant plant bred true. Professor Castle has asked if parthenogenesis may not be as reasonable an interpretation of the phenomenon since parthenogenesis is known to occur in *Nicotiana tabacum*.

The possibility had naturally occurred to us. And since it is impossible to prove a negative the same alternative may be presented in discussing any Angiosperm variation. Mrs. Rose Haig Thomas has reported parthenogenesis in *Nicotiana* and her work has been confirmed by Bateson on *one* variety.

One may not deny their conclusions, but the theorem of logic used above holds here as well. While admitting the possibility that Mrs. Thomas has found strains of parthenogenetic *Nicotiana*, it is possible that her results were incorrectly interpreted. We have made numerous attempts to secure parthenogenetic seeds from various species of *Nicotiana* without success. Dr. E. M. East and Mr. R. Wellington made nearly one thousand such attempts with over 50 species and varieties of the genus, also without success. We think it reasonable to assume, therefore, that parthenogenesis in *our* strain of *Nicotiana* is extremely improbable. H. K. HAYES,

E. G. BEINHART

CONNECTICUT EXPERIMENT STATION,
NEW HAVEN

WINTER COLORATION OF WEASELS

TO THE EDITOR OF *SCIENCE*: It is well known that throughout Canada, and in the northern parts of the United States, the weasels become white in winter, whereas in the southern, warmer parts of the country they do not do