

MR. ROBERT BRODIE FORMAN, of Liverpool, has bequeathed £10,000 to the University of Liverpool.

PROFESSOR R. DU BOIS-RAYMOND, writing in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, as quoted in the N. Y. *Evening Post*, says that from Berlin University 236 lecturers, nearly half the total number, are serving their country, either voluntarily or in obedience to the law. The medical faculty furnishes 133 men, presumably for the medical service of the army.

OXFORD and Cambridge Universities are opening as usual, but at Cambridge a hospital for the care of wounded in war has been organized on a large scale; Downing College is garrisoned by a hundred nurses, the Medical Schools are housing a contingent, and a wing of the Leys School, the Cloister Court of Trinity and Pembroke College are prepared for the reception of military patients. At Oxford 600 beds have been placed in the Examination Schools.

A COMMITTEE connected with Oxford University has been formed, with the approval of the Belgian Minister, for the purpose of offering hospitality to professors of Louvain and their families. This committee is composed of the vice-chancellor, the principal of Brasenose College, Sir William Osler, Mrs. W. Max Muller and Miss Price.

DR. WILLIAM H. SEEMANN has been elected dean of the faculty of Tulane University School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the following appointments to the faculty have been made: Dr. Abraham L. Metz, professor of chemistry; Dr. Andrew G. Friedrichs, professor of oral hygiene; Dr. Isadore Dyer, professor of skin diseases; Dr. Edouard M. Dupaquier, professor of tropical medicine and acute infectious diseases; Dr. Charles C. Bass, professor of experimental medicine and director of the laboratories of clinical medicine, and Dr. Joseph D. Weis, professor of tropical medicine.

PROFESSOR BRISTOL, of the department of bacteriology in the College of Medicine of

Syracuse University, has resigned and gone to North Dakota. In his place is Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes Mitchell from the department of medicine of the University of Missouri, and as his assistant Mr. Ralph R. Simmons, A.M., also from the University of Missouri. Dr. F. M. Meader, associate professor of preventive medicine, has accepted the position as director of the division of communicable diseases in the New York State Department of Public Health. He has, however, retained his position as head of this department and there has been secured as his assistant Dr. Edward D. Clark, for the last three years connected with the health department of Buffalo. Dr. Howard L. Van Winkle, assistant in the Municipal Department of Public Health, has been made instructor in this department and will conduct the work in laboratory diagnosis in the municipal laboratories.

EDWIN BURKET TWITMYER, Ph.D., has been promoted from assistant professor to be professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Twitmyer is also assistant director of the laboratory of psychology. Other promotions in the same department are: Francis N. Maxfield, Ph.D., from instructor to assistant professor of psychology; Dr. David Mitchell and Mr. Frank H. Reiter, to be instructors in psychology. Assistant Professor Maxfield will continue, as last year, to be assistant director of the psychological clinic.

ELIJAH SWIFT, A.B. (Harvard), Ph.D. (Göttingen), of Princeton University, has been appointed Williams professor of mathematics at the University of Vermont.

HALSEY J. BAGG, B.S. (Columbia, '14), has been appointed instructor in zoology in New York University.

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#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR TEACHERS— A SUGGESTION

CONSIDERABLE criticism has been raised in this journal in regard to the method of administration of the pension system for teachers, established by Mr. Carnegie. The purpose

seems to be that teaching only of the higher grade should be rewarded by the foundation. In judging the grade of teaching, however, the character of the institution where the teacher happens to be located, and not the work of the individual teacher himself, is used as the basis of selection. The present note is to suggest for discussion the desirability of changing the viewpoint, and using the work of the teacher, rather than the institution, as the unit of selection.

Success of service in the teaching profession is properly recognized for two main reasons: First, as a reward for past service and, second, as a stimulus for attracting and developing higher grade men in the profession. The reward would be more just if apportioned according to the individual service rendered, and the stimulus would be greater upon such a basis. The indifferent men in accepted institutions may be less worthy of reward and more in need of stimulus than many in unselected institutions.

Undoubtedly one of the chief reasons for making the institution the unit of selection is the apparent relative ease of classifying institutions and administering the system upon this basis. The difficulties of classifying and administering upon the individual basis, however, are not insurmountable. The best judge of the success of service in teaching is the opinion of teachers themselves. In "American Men of Science," 1,000 men from the entire body of scientists are listed as of preeminent rank, the number apportioned to each department being in proportion to the total number of scientists that it contains. The essential value of this starred list is the method of its selection. Those starred are thus ranked by the combined vote of the leading scientists in the particular department which they represent. Such a method of selecting individuals could be extended to include all the departments of teaching. The number that the foundation is able to directly benefit can be determined and the list of beneficiaries can then be prepared accordingly, but be selected by the teachers themselves.

Under the present system the value of the

pension may seldom if ever be directly discounted from a teacher's salary, but, to the writer's knowledge, the fact of an institution being accepted by the foundation has been offered either as an excuse for a low scale of reward or as an inducement to change institutions without rise in salary. Giving the pension through preferred institutions has little or no influence as encouragement to do better work for those already in these select institutions and, for individuals outside the fold, is of influence only as it causes them to attempt to get upon the preferred institutions even at a sacrifice.

Objection may be raised to the selection of individuals that such a method gives undue prominence to research and publications. In the grade of institutions for which the Carnegie Foundation is intended, research and publication is considered as one of the necessary activities of a good teacher. Publication broadens the class room and increases the number of scholars, making the influence of the teacher international and not merely local. The good teacher further is known by his scholars and by his colleagues. It would be impossible, therefore, for the worthy teacher to escape recognition by a jury of his peers.

It is not desirable to discuss here further the possibilities of the scheme suggested nor to point out the possible influence that a recognized list of teachers might exert upon a more direct adjustment of positions to merit than is at present in vogue in many American colleges and universities. What has been written is sufficient as a suggestion.

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JONES'S "A NEW ERA IN CHEMISTRY"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The reference to my review of Professor Harry C. Jones's "A New Era in Chemistry," which Professor Franklin makes in his own criticism of the book in SCIENCE of July 31, may serve me as an excuse for a few words regarding this criticism.

Of the exceptions taken by Professor Frank-