

tion Commission. Salary \$2,400. The appointee to this position must have had wide experience as a surveyor of Adirondack lands. He is called and is relied upon as an expert witness in title disputes and he must therefore have had wide experience in Adirondack surveys, including experience in running boundary lines.

A SOUTH American Expedition, which will work under the joint auspices of the Field Museum of Chicago and the New York Museum of Natural History, has sailed on the United Fruit liner *Metapan*, going first to La Paz, Bolivia. From La Paz, the party will cross the Andes by pack train, and descend into a section of Bolivia which is entirely new to the collector. The party will descend either the Beni or the Mamore Rivers, and eventually reach the Amazon by the Madeira. The party consists of Messrs. Lee Garnett Day, Alfred M. Collins, George K. Cherrie, Robert H. Becker and W. F. Walker. Mr. Day has traveled in the Orient and in Brazil. Mr. Collins during the past two years has made hunting trips in South Africa and the Arctic regions north of Siberia. Mr. Cherrie accompanied the Roosevelt expedition last season, and has collected for the British Museum, the New York Museum of Natural History and the Field Museum of Chicago. Mr. Robert H. Becker has just returned from the Amazon Valley and southern Brazil, where he collected for the Field Museum.

DR. FRANK BILLINGS, Chicago, has been invited to deliver the Lane lecture for 1915. The *Journal* of the American Medical Association gives the list of previous lecturers, which is as follows:

1896. Sir William Macewen, regius professor of surgery, University of Glasgow. "Surgery of the Brain."

1897. Christopher Heath, professor of clinical surgery, University College, London. "Congenital Malformations, Aneurism and other Surgical Topics."

1898. Thomas Clifford Allbutt, F.R.S., regius professor of physics, University of Cambridge, England. "Diseases of the Heart."

1899. Nicholas Senn, professor of surgery,

Rush Medical College, Chicago. "Topics in General Surgery."

1900. Sir Michael Foster, professor of physiology, Cambridge, England. "History of Physiology."

1901. Sir Malcolm Morris, surgeon, skin department, St. Mary's Hospital, London. "Social Aspects of Dermatology."

1902. Sir Charles B. Ball, regius professor of surgery, University of Dublin. "Diseases of the Rectum."

1903. Oscar H. Allis, Philadelphia, Pa. "Dislocations and Fractures Involving Larger Bones."

1904. William H. Welch, professor of pathology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. "Infection and Immunity."

1905. Sir Patrick Manson. "Tropical Diseases."

1906. John C. McVail. "Practical Hygiene, Epidemics and Preventive Medicine."

1910. Reginald Heber Fitz, Hersey professor of theory and practise of medicine, Harvard University, Boston. "A Consideration of Some Features of the Lymphatic System."

1911. E. Fuchs, professor of ophthalmology, University of Vienna. "Importance of Ophthalmology in Its Relation to Systemic Disease."

1913. Edward Albert Schaefer, professor of physiology, University of Edinburgh. "Internal Secretion."

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE sum of \$2,430,000 was obtained for Wellesley College in the fourteen months just ended, according to a statement given out by the treasurer. Of this amount \$430,000, including a conditional pledge of \$200,000 from the General Educational Board, was raised before the fire of March 17, when College Hall was burned. The remaining \$2,000,000 includes a pledge from the Rockefeller Foundation of \$750,000. Only three gifts of over \$10,000 have been received since last August. One of these was made but ten days ago, and was a gift from Mr. Carnegie of \$95,000 for the enlargement of the library.

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology has received in gifts during the past year the sum of \$400,000, besides two items wherein the institute is residuary legatee, and the amounts have not been determined. Following is the list: Bequest of Caroline L. W.

French (outright), \$100,000; (residue), \$100,000; Lucius Tuttle, \$50,000; Nathaniel Thayer, \$50,000; William Endicott (residue), \$25,000; Matilda H. Crocker (outright), \$20,000; (residue), \$20,000; Mrs. W. A. Abbe, \$10,000; gift for George Henry May scholarship, \$10,000; gifts for research in a number of amounts, \$10,000.

OHIO UNIVERSITY, Athens, Ohio, has just put into service its \$15,000 electric light and power plant. The boiler plant was previously installed in connection with the central heating system, and the above sum covered the cost of other station equipment, underground cables connecting the station with the various buildings, and the necessary transformers. The total capacity of the plant is nearly 400 horsepower.

THE complete report of the proceedings of the First National Conference on Universities and Public Service has been printed, extending to 350 pages. Copies will be sent free to trustees and other university officers, public officials, editors and librarians. To others it will be sent at cost of publication on application to Edward A. Fitzpatrick, Box 380, Madison, Wisconsin.

H. J. PATTERSON has resigned as president of the Maryland College and Station, to take effect July 1, 1915, recommending in his letter of resignation the abolishing of the office of president and the substitution of an administrative commission consisting of a director of college work, the director of the station, and the director of extension work. This plan is under consideration by the board of trustees.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### FRATERNITIES AND SCHOLARSHIP

THE communication on "Fraternities and Scholarship" published in a recent number of *SCIENCE*<sup>1</sup> touches a problem of decided interest—the relation of fraternities to the welfare of our higher institutions of learning—and one which has received much attention during the past few years, particularly in the univer-

sities and colleges of the south and west. The treatment of the question by the writer who happens to be the assistant dean for men in the University of Illinois, although presented in a very "readable" form, leaves much to be desired however from even an elementary statistical standpoint, and the reader may well hesitate as to the conclusions to be drawn from the data presented, beyond the idea that fraternities may be taught to appreciate the high grades which are assumed to represent scholarship. Perhaps the demonstration of a proposition of this nature is sufficient, for the opportunity to thus influence men separated into groups competing with one another, goes far toward justifying the existence of such groups even though they may have certain shortcomings.

While among all men students (2,600) there is an increase in the average grade from 81.1 per cent.<sup>2</sup> for the first semester of 1909–10 to 82.3 per cent. for the second semester of 1913–14 and among fraternity men (700) from 78.7 per cent. to 81.9 per cent. for the same period, the actual increase during the five years is less, inasmuch as average second semester grades are in every case higher than first semester grades of the same college year, a result undoubtedly due to the elimination of the poorer students at the end of the first semester. Therefore similar semesters should be compared and the gain is from 81.4 per cent. to 82.3 per cent. for all men students—relatively 1.11 per cent.—and from 79.7 per cent. to 81.7 per cent. for fraternities—relatively 2.51 per cent.

This is really a small increase to result from a five-year propaganda and when taken into consideration with other factors which may have been instrumental in bringing about the result, one might wonder as to whether the smoke denoted a fire. The plotting of graphs with relatively long ordinates often conveys a misleading impression.

For the second semester of 1910–11 to the second semester of 1913–14 there is practically no gain for the average grade of all students while fraternity students exhibit a gain ap-

<sup>1</sup> *SCIENCE*, October 16, p. 542.

<sup>2</sup> Approximations from the published chart.