

dents Commission, September 27 to 30. On September 23, on the athletic field of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, there will be a mine-rescue demonstration at 10 o'clock; at 2 o'clock in the afternoon there will be a first-aid demonstration; and at 4 o'clock a demonstration of the explosibility of coal dust. On September 24, at 10 o'clock, will be held a first-aid contest for inter-state supremacy; at 2 in the afternoon a rescue contest for inter-state supremacy; at 4 in the afternoon a rock drilling contest, and at 8 o'clock in the evening, there will be an award of prizes and souvenirs at the convention hall.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Illinois legislature has passed a bill appropriating \$5,000,000 for the use of the University of Illinois for the biennium beginning July 1, 1915. This amount lacks but little of being the whole of the fund that has accumulated in the state treasury from the one-mill tax voted four years ago for the support of the state university.

By the will of Miss Helen Collamore, of Boston, \$100,000 is bequeathed to Simmons College, \$20,000 to Radcliffe College and \$10,000 primarily to aid women students in post-graduate courses in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

THE General Education Board plans to enter the field of educational research by assisting workers of institutions of learning, as well as supporting experiments and inquiries. Further progress is reported in the project for establishing an institute for training public health workers. A model county organization will be perfected in Mississippi, with the cooperation of the state superintendent. Several appropriations are also announced. Two hundred thousand dollars are subscribed to the Vassar College endowment fund, \$125,000 to that of Denison University, Granville, Ohio, and \$100,000 to Pomona College, Claremont, Cal. The sum of \$140,650 is appropriated for the current year's work in developing secondary and rural schools for both white and Negro races. The board has contributed \$21,000 for

continuing the farm demonstration work for children's clubs in Maine and \$10,000 in New Hampshire, undertaken with the agricultural colleges of these states.

PROFESSOR R. J. POOL has been chosen by the board of regents of the University of Nebraska to be acting head of the department of botany, to fill the place made vacant by the death of Professor Charles E. Bessey. J. E. Weaver, for two and one half years connected with the botanical department of Washington State College, and for the past year with the botanical department of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed assistant professor of botany in the department.

DR. JOSEPH PETERSON, the circumstances of whose resignation from the chair of psychology in the University of Utah have been noted in this journal, has been appointed professorial lecturer in the University of Minnesota. Other appointments at Minnesota are: Elmer J. Lund, assistant professor of zoology; Robert C. Ashby, assistant professor of animal husbandry; Jean MacKinnon, assistant professor of nutrition; Lucile Wheeler, assistant professor of foods and cookery; Merritt R. Grose, instructor in chemistry, and John C. West, instructor in physical education.

DR. GEORGE W. CORNER, now on the staff for gynecology of Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed assistant professor of anatomy, and I. C. Hall, formerly of the Cutter laboratories, assistant professor of bacteriology, in the University of California.

At the University of Illinois Robert Stewart, professor of chemistry in the Utah Agricultural College has been appointed associate professor of soil fertility and assistant chief in soil fertility in the Agricultural Experiment Station. Gilbert Gussler, of the University of Ohio, has been appointed associate in animal husbandry in the College of Agriculture. R. D. Carmichael, of the University of Indiana, has been appointed to be assistant professor of mathematics in the university.

LEE R. DICE, Ph.D. (California, '15), has been appointed instructor in zoology at the Kansas State Agricultural College.

PROFESSOR GILBERT GUSLER, of the Ohio State University, has been appointed to a position as associate in the department of animal husbandry of the University of Illinois.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

COMPLEXITY OF THE ALEXANDRIAN SERIES

UNDER the tacit encouragement of our federal and state geological bureaus the unfortunate practise of continually displacing already well-defined and useful terranal titles by new ones, often of very doubtful utility, with the idea in mind that such continual change in nomenclature is the only essential element in the advancement of knowledge, seems to be notably increasing rather than showing any appreciable signs of wane. Lest the shadow permanently be mistaken for the substance every contemplated case of renaming demands beforehand the closest scrutiny.

It was a similar tendency, a generation ago, that led the various geological surveys to dispense with the services of the paleontologist and to adopt the lithologic unit in stratigraphic classification and in cartographic representation. In new form the remaining mania still refuses to be downed.

A recent concrete case is the proposal of the name Alexandrian for an Early Siluric series in the Mississippi Valley. This instance is no worse than a multitude of others. It is selected at random, chiefly because it illustrates in small compass more points than any other that comes to mind. Moreover, it emphasizes three facts of universal application.

There is first the doubtful expedient of erecting groups so large as that of series by merely throwing together all strata lying between two well-known horizons. Second, there is the pernicious habit of making inconsequential additions to or subtractions from already defined formations and proposing therefor entirely new names, when the old terms easily answer without violation of a single canon of nomenclature. In the third place there is little or no consideration of paleogeographical conditions. Until the last-named factor is recognized in something of its true perspective there can be little real progress in

the solution of the broader problems of local stratigraphy.

Now the Siluric section of northeastern Missouri is quite remarkable because of the fact that it is so meagerly represented, because it is divided medially by a marked plane of unconformity, and because there is an overlapping of a southern earlier Siluric deposition by a northern later one.

In the proposal of the term Edgewood formation to include the Bowling Green limestone, the Noix oölite, a local phase of what was later called the normal Noix limestone as noted by Ulrich, and the lower normal limestone to which recently the name Gyrene limestone was given, the significance of the notable plane of unconformity at the base of the Bowling Green member was completely overlooked. It now transpires that the stratigraphic affinities of this formation are with the northern, or Iowa, section instead of with the southern or southern Missouri sequence; that its time relations are with the Mid Siluric rather than with the Early Siluric sub-period. In consequence of these facts Edgemont as a terranal designation becomes at once invalidated.

By slight change in the original significance of the term Noix, as applied to a limestone member, this name assumes a useful and valid rôle. The appellation Cyrene for a limestone becomes wholly unnecessary. If in the north Missouri region the term Alexandrian series is to be retained as a permanent stratigraphic title with a taxonomic rank of series it will have to be restricted in its application to the Siluric strata below the plane of unconformity marking the base of the Bowling Green limestone.

According to the rule of nomenclature laid down by its author the term Alexandrian would have to be abandoned and a new title proposed. There is urgent need of a serial term for the Early Siluric section of the Ozark region. It appears a happier treatment of the problem to retain a name already in use, modifying its delimiting application slightly to meet the exigencies of newly discovered relationships. Only in this way can the interests of stable geologic nomenclature be best sub-