

sociate professor of entomology and chief of the department, writes that entomologists visiting the Philippines will be cordially welcomed to the laboratories and every facility for their comfort will be placed at their disposal.

EXPLORATIONS being made in the Westhaver mounds six miles south of Circleville by Curator William C. Mills, of the Ohio Archeological and Historical Museum, the Ohio State University, have brought to light interesting relics of aboriginal burial mounds. This mound is 16 feet high and 100 feet in diameter, about 2,000 cubic feet of earth, and every inch must be carefully examined. A total of fifteen burials was found in the mound, four of them in graves below the surface or base of the mound, and the remainder in the mound proper. In many cases the skeletons were found to be lacking one or more bones, and in one case the skull alone was found. This was explained by Dr. Mills as indicating the custom of reburial, practised by the mound builders. At one point in the explorations a huge grave was opened, extending five feet below the base line. In the grave were found three skeletons, placed side by side—two adults and a child. The adults, probably a man and a woman, were almost six feet in height, while the third skeleton was that of a child perhaps seven years old. Dr. Mills and his party will spend most of the summer working in this mound.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PROFESSOR C. H. EIGENMANN has been reappointed research professor in zoology, Indiana University, for the year 1915-16. He will devote his time to the study of South American freshwater fishes.

At the University of Michigan, Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven has been promoted to the position of professor of zoology. He will retain the directorship of the Museum of Zoology.

THE following promotions and appointments have been made by the trustees and medical faculty of Western Reserve University: William Evans Brunner, A.M., M.D., clinical professor of ophthalmology, to be professor of

ophthalmology, with seat and vote in the faculty. H. H. McGregor, Ph.D., to be instructor in biochemistry; C. D. Christie, A.B., M.D., demonstrator of medicine and medical resident of Western Reserve University and Lakeside Hospital, to be director of the Clinical Research Laboratory at Lakeside Hospital, and Russell J. Collins, A.B., M.D., to be demonstrator of pharmacology.

IN the University of Nebraska School of Medicine, Dr. Max Morse becomes assistant professor of biological chemistry.

C. E. HOWELL, of the University of Missouri, and E. B. Kranz, of Iowa State College, have been appointed to the division of animal husbandry at the State College of Washington.

DR. JOHANNES THIELE, professor of chemistry at Strassburg, has declined a call to succeed Professor Wallach at Göttingen, and Dr. Friedrich Paschen, professor of physics at Tübingen, has likewise declined to succeed Professor Riecke in the same institution.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### CANCER AND HEREDITY

IN Dr. Slye's recent communication<sup>1</sup> concerning the inheritance of cancer, reference is made by way of illustration to a type of color inheritance which, since it is quite contrary to the more generally accepted principles of Mendelian inheritance, requires critical comment.

On page 160 she states "Let me at this point recall some of the basic facts of heredity." She then proceeds, using the customary Mendelian terms "*dominant*" and "*recessive*," to describe a cross between *gray* and *albino mice*, and indicates results which are incompatible with those of other investigators. She furthermore furnishes no data in support of this more or less revolutionary hypothesis.

As Castle, Allen, Bateson, Durham, Cuénot, Plate, Davenport, and many others have carried on investigations on this particular problem in genetics and have reached results contrary to those obtained by Slye, it seems rea-

<sup>1</sup> Slye, Maud, "The Incidence and Inheritability of Spontaneous Cancer in Mice," *Jour. of Med. Research*, 1915, XXXII, 159.