

AMONG additions to the American Museum of Natural History is a model showing the increased efficiency of the present hospital service at Panama over that of the French period. This model shows a hospital in the French period in care of a Sister of Mercy. Puddles of water were allowed to gather about the ground, and the legs of the beds were placed in cans of water to prevent ants from crawling up. As we now know, yellow fever and malarial fever mosquitoes bred in such accumulations of stagnant water and helped to keep the hospitals well filled. Screens were not used and the ventilation was not of the best. The companion part of the model shows a French hospital, altered to conform to our most modern ideas and knowledge of the relation of insect and disease. A clean, dry cellar, well-kept grounds, screens, increased ventilation and the care of trained nurses serve to change an insanitary, disease-breeding building into the acme of sanitation.

THE Cornell University Medical College has recently reorganized its surgical service at Bellevue Hospital. At the head of the service there is now one "visiting surgeon in charge" with a continuous service. He has general supervision over the entire work and is responsible only to the college and the hospital for its proper performance. There are two visiting surgeons who also have a continuous service limited to some special subdivision of general surgery. They are thus relieved of all routine work in order to devote their time to the particular work with which they are occupied. Under the visiting surgeon in charge are two associate visiting surgeons. These men are on the full time salaried basis, and each has the care of one half of the service. They have as assistants four juniors who are also surgeons to the out-patient department. The organization now also includes a laboratory of surgical pathology and a laboratory of experimental surgery, each under a full-time salaried man. These laboratories are available to all members of the staff, who there have the privilege of working on their individual problems. The entire staff has been appointed to positions in the department of surgery in the

Medical College, and all students take a portion of their surgical ward work under this organization. The essential changes from the former system consist in having one head, continuous service, full-time salaried surgeons and laboratories under the immediate jurisdiction of the surgical service. Following is the staff as at present constituted: John A. Hartwell, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, visiting surgeon in charge; George Woolsey, M.D., professor of clinical surgery, visiting surgeon; John Rogers, M.D., professor of clinical surgery, visiting surgeon; Kenneth Bulkley, M.D., instructor in clinical surgery, associate surgeon; James Worcester, M.D., instructor in clinical surgery, associate surgeon; Fenwick Beekman, M.D., instructor in operative surgery, junior surgeon; Benjamin Vance, M.D., instructor in pathology, surgical pathologist; J. W. McMeans, M.D., assistant in surgery, assistant in experimental surgery.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

OBJECTIONS have been filed to the probating of the will of Amos F. Eno who bequeathed a large sum to public purposes and made Columbia University his residuary legatee. It is said that under the will Columbia University would receive \$3,000,000 or more.

A BEQUEST of \$50,000 has been made to Cornell University by Mrs. Sarah Manning Sage to promote the advancement of medical science by the prosecution of research at Ithaca.

PROFESSOR H. L. BOWMAN, Waynflete professor of mineralogy at Oxford, reports, according to *Nature*, two gifts to his department. (1) Under the will of the late Sir Arthur Church has been bequeathed £100 for the purchase of apparatus and specimens, together with the chemical and mineralogical apparatus and instruments in Sir Arthur's laboratory and his collection of mineral specimens (other than cut gem-stones). (2) A collection of minerals made by the late Dr. Hugo Müller, containing some 2,000 specimens, has been presented by Mrs. Müller.

DR. ERNEST FOX NICHOLS has resigned the presidency of Dartmouth College and will go to Yale University next year to fill a new chair

of physics in the academic department. Dr. Nichols will at the close of the present academic year have served as president of Dartmouth College for seven years, having previously been professor of physics at Colgate, Dartmouth and Columbia. In accepting the resignation the trustees of Dartmouth College write:

It had been our hope that Dartmouth College might long continue to enjoy your leadership. Yet we can but recognize that the sacrifices which you have already made deserve worthier recognition than the demand that you continue them at serious cost to your own well-being. In the chosen field of science to which you are about to return you will carry our sure expectation of great accomplishment and added honors; but more especially you will carry our warm personal affection, the outgrowth of seven years of intimate fellowship in a common cause.

PROFESSOR T. W. GALLOWAY, Ph.D., who has occupied the chair of biology at James Millikin University at Decatur, Ill., since the establishment of that institution in 1903, has been appointed professor of zoology at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin. A. A. Tyler, Ph.D. (Columbia, '97), for some years professor of biology in Bellevue College, Omaha, Nebraska, has been appointed to the chair of biology at James Millikin University, to succeed Dr. Galloway.

At Harvard University James Sturgis Pray, of Cambridge, has been elected as Charles Eliot professor of landscape architecture, succeeding Frederick L. Olmsted, resigned and Robert W. Lovett, of Boston, as Brown professor of orthopedic surgery.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

GENUS AND SUBGENUS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have read with interest the discussion of the genus in taxonomy which has been running in recent numbers of SCIENCE. I am especially interested in Dr. Allen's condemnation as "intolerable" of "the use of both the generic name in the broader sense, and the subgeneric name (in parenthesis) in incidental references." Emphasizing the last three words of the quotation,

one may endorse Dr. Allen's condemnation. But I believe the practise of retaining old genera, except in cases in which they express false concepts of relationship, is often a good one, and that newly discerned natural groups of species within the old genus may better be treated as subgenera.

I have recently reviewed the well-known genus *Salpa* and have had to recognize ten subdivisions in order to express the major groups before coming to species distinctions. It seemed a pity to discard the old genus name *Salpa*. I therefore retained this and classed the ten subdivisions as subgenera, though, if one wished to do so, he could thoroughly justify them as genera. The special student of the *Salpidae* will bear in mind the subgeneric names and very likely will use them in highly special papers, *e. g.*, *Thalia democratica*, *Ritteria retracta*, *Apsteinia punctata*, etc. But in general reference all or any of these would be *Salpa*.

We must recognize numerous supra-specific subdivisions of many old genera and these must be named, but let the broader old generic name be the one in use except when one desires to call attention to the diversities emphasized by the subgeneric names. In the latter case, at the risk of Dr. Allen's condemnation, I would use parenthetically the subgeneric name also. This is a bit awkward, but such minutely distinctive terminology is not so frequently needed. Using the broader generic name merely refuses to introduce unnecessary reference to subgeneric classification. When this is germane to the discussion, of course introduce it. But let us not insist on always dragging in the whole subject in all its intricacies when by so doing we merely distract attention from what we are saying.

In ordinary reference to squirrels it is sufficient to call them *Sciurus*, and the fact that this name so used includes "a score or more of natural groups sharply defined geographically and by minor but not unimportant morphological characters" does not present any argument against such terminology, provided we have at our disposal a subsidiary terminology which can be introduced when the distinctive