

THE fifth annual meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science was held at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 26 and 27, 1915. Thirty-five papers, dealing with various phases of biology, physics, chemistry and geology were presented. The address by the retiring president, Mr. Chas. W. Shannon, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, dealt with the work of the Oklahoma Academy of Science and its connection with the scientific work of the state. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Chas. N. Gould, Oklahoma City.

First Vice-president, L. Chas. Raiford, Stillwater.

Second Vice-president, L. B. Nice, Norman.

Secretary, G. K. Stanton, Enid.

Assistant Secretary, Ethel L. McCafferty, Enid.

Treasurer, H. H. Lane, Norman.

Curator, Fritz Aurin, Norman.

The next meeting of the academy will be held in November, 1916, at the time and place of the meeting of the Oklahoma State Teachers' Association.

THE Stanford University Medical School announces the thirty-fourth course of Popular Medical Lectures to be given in Lane Hall on alternate Friday evenings as follows:

January 14. "Medical Research and Its Relation to General Medicine," by Dr. George H. Whipple, director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research.

January 28. "The Economic Aspect of Disease," by Murray S. Wildman, Ph.D., professor of economics.

February 11. "Disease Carriers," by Dr. W. A. Sawyer, secretary, California State Board of Health.

February 25. "The Relation of Hospitals to the Community," by Dr. George B. Somers.

March 10. "Locomotion in Health and Disease," by Dr. Walter F. Schaller.

March 24. "Mental Hygiene," by Lilien J. Martin, Ph.D., professor of psychology.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of Miss Rose Hollingsworth, of Boston, the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

nology, Radcliffe College, Mount Holyoke College and the Tuskegee Industrial Institute each receive \$5,000. Five hundred dollars are bequeathed to the Gray Herbarium, the National Association of Audubon Societies, the Society for the Protection of Native Plants, the American Forestry Association and to the Massachusetts Forestry Association.

A GIFT of \$75,000 has been announced to the Harvard Medical School. This is the balance of the bequest of Morrill Wyman, who established the Morrill Wyman Medical Research Fund, the income of which is to be applied in promoting investigation concerning the origin, results, prevention and treatment of disease.

THE executors of the estate of the late Lord Strathcona have notified Queen's University, Kingston, that the \$100,000 left to that university is now available and ready to be paid.

A VALUABLE collection of periodicals, monographs and other medical books, consisting of more than 4,000 volumes, has been presented to the Johns Hopkins Hospital by Dr. Howard A. Kelly.

PROFESSOR HENRY A. PERKINS, of the department of physics, is acting president of Trinity College during the absence of President Luther.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE ORIGIN OF THE "NITER SPOTS" IN CERTAIN WESTERN SOILS¹

IN a recent issue of SCIENCE, under the above title, Sackett and Isham¹ discussed this important question but conveyed no actual information regarding either the meaning of the term "niter spot" or its origin. They merely select for discussion a single point out of the great mass of available material so that the general scientific reader to whom an appeal is thus made through the columns of SCIENCE is left in doubt as to what it is all about. In order to clarify the matter for the average reader, it seems advisable to submit some definite information on the subject in

¹ Sackett and Isham, SCIENCE, Vol. XLII., p. 452, October 1, 1915.