

question." Without detracting from the ultimate desirability of some such scheme as that proposed by Professor Riesman, may it not be more easy and advisable for us at once to adopt the principle of planning for the effective use of the summer vacation by all students in our technical schools, and of making three such periods a prerequisite for graduation? Our students will not be deprived of any more life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness than they will have to relinquish when they do graduate if we give them two vacation periods of approximately two weeks each, one immediately following the end of the school year, the other immediately preceding the next.

The chief objection to this scheme will come from those who want the summer for play—a class for whom we are not planning our college work—and those teachers who will claim that it is impossible to place the men. "Why?" "Oh, because industry doesn't want them." "Well then, train men who will be in demand; our best equipped institutions meet with little difficulty."

The scheme outlined has the merit of being the ideal toward which many of our institutions are even now striving, but complete success demands the wholeheartedness of combined effort and determination.

LANCASTER D. BURLING

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA

GERMAN GEOLOGISTS AND THE WAR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Some idea of the terrible way in which the war is depleting the ranks of German men of science can be gained from a study of the lists of German and Austrian geographers and geologists enrolled in military organizations which have been published in the "Geologische Rundschau." These lists, which can be found in the numbers published on December 8, 1914, February 26, 1914 and December 14, 1915, combined with a short list in the November, 1915, number of *Der Geologe*, contain a total of 237 names. Of this total, 54 are reported killed and two missing and probably dead, a mortality of almost twenty-five per cent.

The number of the *Geologische Rundschau*

just received (published on December 14, 1915), contains portraits and obituaries of three young German geologists who are well known to many of the profession in this country through their participation in the excursions and meetings of the Twelfth International Geological Congress held in Canada in the summer of 1913. They are Curt Alfons Haniel, privatdozent in geology and paleontology in the University of Bonn, killed in action near Laon on December 29, 1914; Siegfried Martius, assistant in the Mineralogical-Petrographical Institute at Bonn, fatally wounded at Ypres on October 23, 1914; and Adolf A. Riedel, a student just completing the work for his doctorate at Munich, a man of unusually attractive personality and of great intellectual promise, who was killed in northern France on November 21, 1914. Another participant in the International Congress, Dr. Wilhelm Pauleke, of Karlsruhe, has been reported wounded and the recipient of the Iron Cross.

A further indication of the serious character of the German losses is given by the statement of the last number of *Der Geologe* (November, 1915) that 75 of the personnel of the Royal Prussian Department of Mines had lost their lives up to April 1, 1915. This periodical also reports that Dr. Quitzow, editor of *Der Geologe* and *Der Geologen-Kalender* had not been heard from for a year, after being in action on the eastern front.

WALTER L. BARROWS

TRINITY COLLEGE,
March 14, 1916

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Feebly Inhibited: Nomadism, or the Wandering Impulse, with Special Reference to Heredity: Inheritance of Temperament.
BY CHARLES B. DAVENPORT.

The author argues that "all cases of nomadism can be ascribed to one fundamental cause—that those who show the trait belong to the nomadic race" made up of those possessed of the nomadic impulse. This impulse "depends upon the absence of a simple sex-linked gene that 'determines' domesticity." The data for the argument are family-histor-