

for the feeble-minded, as well as repairs for existing institutions.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that plans have been prepared for the new John P. Scripps Memorial Hospital for working men and women in San Diego. As a preliminary step, the San Diego Diagnostic Group Clinic for John P. Scripps Foundation is at once to be put into operation in the Scripps residence, which has been donated for that purpose. Mr. Scripps guarantees a sum up to \$250,000 for the clinic and the erection, furnishing and equipment of the hospital. He also agrees for a term of years to meet, up to the sum of \$30,000, any deficit in the amount required for the maintenance of the institution. Drs. Bernard J. O'Neill, Harry C. Loos, John E. Jennison, Vernon G. Clark and Harold A. Thompson comprise the executive committee of the institution.

THE first lecture in the spring term of the course of popular science lectures maintained by the California Academy of Sciences in its new museum building in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, was given Sunday afternoon, January 14, by Dr. R. G. Aitken, astronomer, of Lick Observatory. Dr. Aitken's subject, "A Total Eclipse of the Sun," proved one of very great interest. Other lectures are:

January 17. By Dr. F. M. McFarland, professor of histology, Stanford University, on "The Structure and Development of the Molluscan Shell."

January 21. By Dr. Frank W. Weymouth, assistant professor of physiology, Stanford University, on "The Edible Crabs and Fishing Methods on the Pacific Coast."

January 28. By Dr. James Perrin Smith, professor of paleontology, Stanford University, on "Alexander von Humboldt."

February 4. By Miss Alice Eastwood, curator of botany, California Academy of Sciences, on "Trees and Shrubs of the Grand Cañon."

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the ninth quadrennial Scandinavian congress for internal medicine was to have been held in Finland this spring, but the war prevents. Arrangements have now been made for the meeting to be held at Copenhagen in August, 1917. The subjects appointed for discussion are "Importance of

Dieting in Treatment of Insufficiency of the Heart and Kidneys," and "Neurasthenia in Relation to Psychopathic Conditions." V. Scheel, Bispebjerg Hospital, Copenhagen, is the secretary. The twenty-third annual meeting of the German internists is planned to convene at Wiesbaden in the coming April. The main addresses announced are on "Nutrition in War," "The Constitution as a Cause of Disease," and "The Rarer Infectious Diseases encountered during the War." W. Weintraud, Rosselstrasse 20, Wiesbaden, is the secretary. The announcement of this meeting specifies that communications for it will not be accepted if their essential content has already been published.

THE Board of Agriculture and the Development Commissioners of Great Britain have been considering the establishment of a research institute to investigate problems relating to agricultural machinery, and they consider that the institute could be most suitably established at Cambridge in association with the existing schools of engineering and agriculture. The Board of Agricultural Studies feel that the university should give a cordial welcome to the proposal. It is suggested that the principal officers of the institute should be (1) a director with experience of mechanism, and (2) an assistant director, who would be an agriculturist. For the former a stipend of £700 a year is suggested, and for the latter one which would range between £250 and £500. The building, probably at first of a temporary nature, could be erected adjoining the School of Agriculture, and land required for experimental work could be found on the two university farms. The establishment of the institute in Cambridge would not throw any burden on the university funds.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Hon. William B. McKinley, congressman from the Nineteenth District, Champaign, Ill., has given bonds and stocks valued at \$120,000 to the University of Illinois for the establishment of an infirmary for the use of the students and faculties of the institution.

THE sum of \$100,000 has been given anonymously to the Higher Institute of Medicine for Women at Petrograd for the foundation of scholarships in the name of Count Vorontzoff, who died in 1916.

FOR the period from 1911 to 1915, inclusive, the proportion of first places, according to reports of state board examinations published in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, the percentage of first places won by the different schools of medicine is: Pennsylvania, 5.1; Johns Hopkins, 4.9; Harvard, 4.5; Northwestern, 4.4; Rush, 4.2, and Jefferson, 4.1.

DR. MARION L. BURTON, president of Smith College, has accepted the presidency of the University of Minnesota.

DR. EDGAR R. MCGUIRE, of Buffalo, N. Y., has been elected to fill the chair of surgery in the medical department of the University of Buffalo, which position was previously held for thirty-one years by the late Dr. Roswell Park. Dr. McGuire was Dr. Park's assistant for several years and has been acting head of the department of surgery for the past two years.

A. C. BAER, instructor in dairy husbandry at the University of Wisconsin, has resigned to become head of the dairy department of the Oklahoma College and Station.

E. P. TAYLOR, professor of horticulture and horticulturist at the Utah College and Station, has resigned to become director of agricultural extension at the University of Arizona.

IT is stated in *Nature* that Mr. Joseph Yates, of the Blackburn Technical School, has been appointed head of the chemistry department of the Derby Technical College.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE FUR SEAL CENSUS OF 1916

I AM indebted to the Commissioner of Fisheries for the following detailed enumeration of the fur seals of the Pribilof Islands for 1916:

Breeding females	116,977
Pups	116,977
Harem bulls	3,500
Idle bulls	2,632
Yearlings, both sexes	67,291
Two year olds, both sexes ..	48,460
Bachelors and young bulls ..	61,492
Total	417,329

This census is the work of Mr. G. Dalles Hanna, a member of the island staff, who also made the counts of 1915, given in the October 27 issue of *SCIENCE*. Mr. Hanna came to his work on the fur-seal islands in 1913 and participated in a considerable part of the work of pup counting of that season, thus becoming familiar with the methods employed. Comparing the two seasons for which he is responsible we find for 1916 a gain of 13 per cent. in pups, which is also the gain in breeding females. It will be remembered that in the two counts by the writer for 1912 and 1913, in which the personal equation was also the same for both seasons, a gain of 12½ per cent. was found for 1913. These two sets of counts go far toward fixing the normal rate of increase in the breeding stock of the herd at approximately 13 per cent. per annum.

A second significant thing about this census of 1916 is the item, "bachelors and young bulls, 61,492." These are males of less than adult age, three, four, five and six years. They represent the animals exempted from killing in the past five years by the law of 1912, suspending commercial sealing. These 61,000 animals have definitely passed into the reserve bull class and will as they gradually attain maturity constitute that dangerous overstock of breeding males which is resulting from the operation of the law of 1912. There were already present on the rookeries in the spring of 1916, 3,981 adult bulls in excess of the number holding harems in 1915. Of these 1,349 forced their way into the breeding grounds and established harems. A normal increase in harems would have been 280, equalling the 13 per cent. gain in cows. Even after these 1,349 had obtained harems there remained 2,632 adult bulls which were unable to obtain harems. It is unnecessary to say that these unsuccessful idle bulls as well as those which