

along the eastern shore of Lake Nipigon, the large lake in Ontario immediately north of Lake, some sixty miles distant. Mr. Thomas H. Lake, some sixty miles distant. Mr. Thomas H. Kearney, of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is planning in cooperation with Dr. H. L. Shantz, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the studies of native vegetation as an indicator of the agricultural capabilities of land in the western states which have been in progress during the past five or six years.

PROFESSOR LAWRENCE MARTIN, of the University of Wisconsin, gave instruction in topography at the Officers Training Camp, Fort Sheridan, Ill., during the last part of June and first part of July.

DR. HUGH MCGUIGAN, professor of pharmacology in the Northwestern University, recently delivered an address on "Blood Sugar in relation to Diabetes" before the faculty and students of the graduate summer quarter in medicine of the University of Illinois.

THE first appointment to one of the new Logan fellowships at the University of Chicago has been made to Professor Walter George Sackett, of the Agricultural Experimental Station, Fort Collins, Colorado, for the academic year 1917-18. These fellowships were recently endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Logan, of Chicago, for research in experimental medicine for the purpose of discovering new methods and means of preventing and curing disease.

THE Council of the University of Leeds has conferred upon Colonel de Burgh Birch, C.B., late professor of physiology and dean of the faculty of medicine, the title of emeritus professor.

SIR COOPER PERRY, physician at, and superintendent of, Guy's Hospital, has been elected to the office of vice-chancellor of the University of London for the year 1917-18, in succession to Sir Alfred Pearce Gould.

SIR NAPIER SHAW, director of the British Meteorological Office, has been appointed Halley lecturer for 1918, at Oxford.

THE death is announced of H. Van Laer, professor of chemistry at Mons, and president of the Chemical Society of Belgium.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

At the meeting of the board of regents of the University of Texas, held on July 12 and 13, President Vinson was continued as head of the institution, though without formal action to that effect on the part of the board. The following members of the faculty were dropped: Professors L. M. Keasbey, W. H. Mayes, W. T. Mather and A. Caswell Ellis, and the secretary of the university, John A. Lomax. Of these most had been previously mentioned as slated for dismissal by the governor, but Professor Keasbey was charged with disloyal utterances at the recent pacifist meeting in Chicago. The governor has not indicated any method by which the funds for the maintenance of the university may be secured, but the regents are making plans, on a restricted program, to have the institution open for work in the autumn.

WE learn from *Nature* that the valuable collections of Arachnida, containing more than 1,000 types, with the library, notebooks, drawings and papers in connection therewith, bequeathed by the late Rev. O. Pickard-Cambridge, to the University of Oxford, have been deposited in the University Museum and placed in the charge of the Hope professor of zoology, Professor E. B. Poulton.

J. C. BRADLEY, of Cornell University, will spend next year as assistant professor of entomology at the University of California.

FRED W. PADGETT, who for the past four years has been research fellow in oil, gas and gasoline in the University of Pittsburgh, has been appointed associate professor of chemistry in the University of Oklahoma, where he will have charge of developing a research department in oil, gas and gasoline.

HARRY CLINTON GOSSARD, assistant professor of mathematics in the University of Oklahoma, has been appointed to a mathematical position in the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md.

DR. SAM FARLOW TRELEASE has been appointed assistant professor of plant physiology in the agricultural college of the University of the Philippines. He sailed on July 18 and begins his work on arriving at Los Baños.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE MAN AND THE ANTHROPOIDS

IN our current scientific literature one frequently meets the assertion that man is a lineal descendant of the anthropoid apes. The evident implication is that the extant anthropoids, orang, gibbon, gorilla and chimpanzee, are intended. Thus in the issue of "SCIENCE," of February 23 *ultimo*, Professor Stewart Paton remarks:

The time is rapidly passing, as Yerkes has pointed out, when on account of the disappearance of the higher apes it will be possible to trace the various gradations in our ancestral line.

The correction of this common error lies all along the line of technical evolutionary thought from Huxley to the present, but it does not seem to have penetrated popular science. Our leading authority in this field, Professor Duckworth, in his "Morphology and Anthropology," Volume I, page 238, Second Edition, 1915, writes:

We must conclude that the existing anthropoid apes, constituted as they now are, did not figure in the ancestral history of man.

This should relieve our anxieties regarding "our ancestral line."

While our knowledge of the anthropoids is not as complete as we might wish, the whole of it is against the supposition of the natives of the Congo and of Borneo that man is ascended from the anthropoids or the latter are descended from man. The thralldom of morphology accounts for much biological belief both ancient and modern, but the science of the present puts much more weight on anatomy and physiology. It appears to be a sound principle that groups showing inverse developments are not genetically related. Duckworth points out some of these inversions as regards man and the anthropoids, such

as in dentition, in the speno-ethmoidal angle, and in the speno-maxillary angle. Metchnikoff, while he assumes as a hypothesis that man is descended from "some anthropoid ape," pointed out that the present anthropoids have the *os penis* which does not appear in man, and that the *hymen* which is unique to the *genus Homo* is absent in the anthropoids. Several anatomists have followed Aristotle in holding that the hand places man in a distinct order, while Topinard was equally emphatic regarding the human foot. Evidences along these lines are supplemented by pre-historic archeology, as all the older human crania are dolichocephalic, while the crania of all anthropoids are extremely brachycephalic.

Whether "scientists" are entitled to believe what they please or are to be guided by observations and verifications is perhaps an open question. Weismann accepted *generatio aequivoca*, although he admitted "all the evidence is against it." Still, many of us believe that a sound science and a sound education demand fidelity to the facts of experience and to those theories alone which grow out of them.

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#### A GIRDLING OF BEAN STEMS CAUSED BY BACT. PHASEOLI

DURING a field trip in Michigan in July, 1914, the writer found a peculiar girdling of the stems and branches of field beans to be prevalent in several localities. Specimens were collected from Kent, Newaygo and Tuscola counties. Since then specimens of this disease have been collected from various parts of the state each year.

The disease appears at the nodes of stems and branches as small water-soaked spots. These enlarge, encircling the affected parts. Later these diseased areas become amber-colored. This girdling is usually completed by the time the pods are about half mature. The affected tissue is so weakened that from the weight of the tops the stem breaks at the diseased node. These signs of the disease may appear before any evidence of the bacterial blight upon the pods.