

His first biological text-book, "Elements of Botany," appeared in 1896 and its excellence was speedily recognized. With some modifications it was subsequently republished under the name of "Essentials of Botany," and in 1901 Mr. Bergen brought out his "Foundations of Botany," including a condensed flora for school use. Other text-books with special adaptation for schools of particular grades of scientific equipment were later published by Mr. Bergen with the collaboration of Dr. Otis W. Caldwell and Professor Bradley M. Davis.

By his long personal experience in the difficulties of the presentation of the subject of botany in the secondary school Mr. Bergen was able to frame these text-books in a way to meet both the needs of teacher and pupil and it is doubtful if any other texts have been more widely used or met with a greater success during the last two decades in the field which they cover.

#### THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS

THE American Association of Variable Star Observers concludes this month six years of active service with a record of 15,763 observations of 332 variable stars for the year, and a grand total for the six years of 75,373 observations.

The past year has been one of marked progress in the efficiency of the scientific service rendered and growth in the membership of the association.

A meeting of the association will be held at the Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass., at 2 P.M., November 10. At this meeting a constitution and by-laws will be adopted and officers elected. Seventy-two observers have already enrolled as charter members and a cordial invitation is extended to all interested in the work to be present at the meeting. It will be a splendid opportunity to inspect through the courtesy of the director, Professor E. C. Pickering, the historic Harvard College observatory and to see exhibits of great interest to all astronomically inclined.

The undersigned will be pleased to answer any questions relative to the work of the association and will be glad to hear from any one

who wishes to join the organization, and take up a line of telescopic work that is teeming with interest, devoid of mathematics and intricate detail, and eminently worth while.

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#### THE CORNELL MEDICAL SCHOOL

CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE opened its twentieth session on October 1, 1917. The student assembly was addressed by Dr. William H. Polk, the dean, who discussed the relation of the medical college to the present military situation and outlined the opportunities for patriotic service by students of medicine. The attention of the student assembly was called to the active participation in the work of the United States of America by the college, the members of the faculty and the medical graduates by active service in the field and by providing facilities for the instruction of officers of the Medical Reserve Corps. The entering students were exhorted to continue their course, that, in accord with the announced plan of the authorities, they may be prepared to fill the vacancies in the medical ranks which, with the continuance of the war, are certain to arise. The enrollment is as follows: First year, registered in New York, 38; registered at Ithaca, 30; total, 68; second year, 34; third year, 29; fourth year, 27; graduates in medicine, 4; total, 182. All students registered for the degree of M.D. (with the exception of those in the first year who are taking the seven-year course leading to the degrees of A.B. and M.D.), are graduates in arts or science. As a result practically all members of the first-year class fall within the limits of the military draft. Several students, having been drafted into the National Army, or fearing the draft in the immediate future, failed to register.

#### A SCHOOL FOR ORAL AND PLASTIC SURGERY

By order of the surgeon general of the army an officers' school for oral and plastic surgery has been established in St. Louis. The purpose of this new school is to train a

limited number of the medical reserve and perhaps other medical officers for the care of those peculiar wounds of the face and jaws characteristic of trench warfare. Both surgeons and dentists will enter upon this work and will eventually constitute a section of the staff in every base hospital and evacuation hospital in connection with the army. The plan involves the training and placing of a sufficient number to care for the face injuries presented among a million men in hospitals. Major Vilray Papin Blair, of St. Louis, has been called to Washington to organize and direct this important work. The first school has its headquarters at the Washington University Medical School, which at the beginning of the war offered to the government the facilities of its new laboratories, hospitals and clinics, and the services of its faculty. Instructors have been chosen chiefly from the faculties of Washington University Medical School and St. Louis University School of Medicine and the special curriculum has been adopted. The latter offers intensive work in anatomy, operative surgery, sepsis, anesthesia and dentistry. The first course will begin on Monday, October 15, and will extend over a period of three weeks to be repeated until the number of men desired has been reached. The surgeon general has designated for dean Dr. R. J. Terry, professor of anatomy in the Washington University Medical School, and for chairman of the curriculum committee, Dr. Hanau W. Loeb, dean of the St. Louis University School of Medicine; Dr. Ernest Sachs, associate professor of surgery at Washington University Medical School, to serve as secretary of the council.

#### THE RED CROSS MEDICAL SERVICE

THE establishment of a bureau of medical service of foreign commissions to give prompt and expert attention to the requests for medical and surgical supplies received from American Red Cross commissions now at work in France, Russia, Roumania, Italy, and Serbia is announced by the Red Cross war council. Requests for additional doctors and nurses for service with these commissions, particularly

in France and Roumania, will also be handled by the new bureau.

In cooperation with the medical advisory board, the bureau will also render assistance in the solving of many new pathological problems constantly arising out of the war.

Dr. R. M. Pearce, of Philadelphia, professor of research medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, is director of the new bureau; Dr. W. C. Bailey, of Boston, associate director; and Dr. Ralph Pemberton, of Philadelphia, assistant. The secretary of the bureau is John Gilbert, of Philadelphia.

The growth of the work of all the Red Cross commissions in European countries during the last two months made the establishment of this bureau necessary. Drugs and medical supplies to the value of more than \$500,000 have already been shipped to Russia, while three detachments of child specialists have been recruited throughout the country for service with the new children's bureau of the Red Cross in France. The bureau is furnishing bacteriologists, chemists, surgeons, and others for Red Cross establishments in Paris.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE chairman of the committee on policy of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has requested Professor Cattell to continue to edit *SCIENCE* until the questions involved have been carefully considered by the committee on policy and the council of the association.

At the annual meeting of the national advisory committee for aeronautics held recently, Dr. W. F. Durand was reelected chairman and Dr. S. W. Stratton was reelected secretary. Members of the executive committee were elected as follows: Dr. Joseph S. Ames, Dr. Charles F. Marvin, Dr. Michael I. Pupin, Major General George O. Squier, United States Army, Dr. S. W. Stratton, Rear Admiral D. W. Taylor, United States Navy, and Dr. Charles D. Walcott. At the organization meeting of the executive committee Dr. Charles D. Walcott was elected chairman and Dr. S. W. Stratton, secretary. Existing subcommittees were continued, and an editorial