

history and manipulation of bees. (Illustrated by moving pictures.)

November 18. Professor George D. Louderback, department of geology, University of California. Geological explorations in China. (Illustrated.)

These lectures are well received by the people of San Francisco and the number of regular attendants is particularly noteworthy. The auditorium of the academy has been filled to its capacity several times during the past month.

THE forty-second year of the *Ecole d'Anthropologie de Paris* opened on November third with courses offered as follows:

1. R. Anthony, Development of the brain in man and the apes.

2. L. Capitan, Art and architecture during the neolithic and protohistoric periods.

3. G. Herve, Ethnology and ethnography in France during the eighteenth century.

4. P. G. Mahoudeau, The precursors and the authors of evolution: Buffon, Lamarck, Darwin.

5. L. Manouvrier, Ethnic psychology.

6. A. de Mortillet, Burial customs among ancient and modern primitive races.

7. C. Papillault, Psycho-social values and sophisms.

8. F. Schrader, Geographic causes of rapprochement and differentiation among human groups.—Evolution of the old world.

9. J. Vinson, Primitive languages, popular language, folk-lore.

In addition there are two short courses of eight lectures each on: (1) The survival of primitive industries, by D. Bellet; and (2) Falsehood from the viewpoint of anthropology and criminology, by Paul-Boncour.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

YALE UNIVERSITY receives the sum of \$300,000 by the will of Mrs. Charles W. Harkness, who died on December 6, 1916.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has received a bequest from the estate of Horace Davis amounting to \$10,000, the income of which is to be used for the purchase of books for the Harvard University Library relating to the Northern Pacific Ocean and its shores. The university has also received a gift of \$50,000 from Mrs. S. Parkman Blake, the income to be used "for the care

of the yard or other grounds of the university." The gift is a memorial to her husband, S. Parkman Blake, of the class of 1855, and to her son, Robert Parkman Blake, of the class of 1894.

IN accordance with the terms of the will of the late Richard Black Sewall, of Boston, there are public bequests amounting to \$380,000, and the residuary legatees are Harvard University and Yale University. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Williams College and Amherst College each receives \$30,000. Tuskegee Institute and Hampton Normal Institute are each given \$5,000.

THE Converse Library at Amherst College was dedicated on November 8. The new \$250,000 building is the gift of Edmund C. Converse, of New York, in memory of his brother, James B. Converse, who was a member of the class of '67 at Amherst. Mr. Converse, Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress, and George A. Plimpton, of New York, president of the college board of trustees, took part in the exercises.

THE University of Rochester has expanded its work in psychology. Quarters are now provided for an experimental laboratory, and are thoroughly equipped for experimental purposes. Two experimental courses will be given during the present year. One course, extending through the college year, emphasizes the psychology of the sense organs and more complex mental processes. The second course takes up the study of comparative psychology. Quarters for animal experimentation have been provided. The course is under the charge of L. A. Pechstein, Ph.D. (Chicago).

ARTHUR L. FOLEY, head of the department of physics of Indiana University, has been elected research professor in the Waterman Institute, the first to be elected to this position. The institute was founded and endowed a few years since by Dr. Luther Dana Waterman, a retired physician of Indianapolis. It is under the control of the trustees of Indiana University and is in part supported by the uni-

versity. The entire income of the Institute is to be devoted to research. Professor Foley retains charge of the physics department of the university, but is relieved of all teaching duties.

DR. H. D. SENIOR, head of the department of anatomy of New York University and Bellevue Medical College, is in England engaged in military medical work. Dr. F. W. Thyng is acting professor of anatomy and head of the department in Dr. Senior's absence, and has charge of histology and embryology. Dr. E. R. Hoskins is acting assistant professor and is in charge of gross anatomy and neurology. Dr. J. L. Conel and Dr. Margaret M. Hoskins are instructors in histology and embryology and Dr. C. Hield is instructor in gross anatomy and neurology. The school year began with 190 students in the first-year class, an increase of 13 over last year.

WARREN G. WATERMAN has been appointed assistant professor of botany at Northwestern University, having completed his work at the University of Chicago, where he received the degree of doctor of philosophy at the August convocation.

PROFESSOR D'ARCY WENTWORTH THOMPSON, professor of natural history, University College, Dundee, has been appointed to the chair of natural history at St. Andrews, vacant through the retirement of Professor W. C. McIntosh.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE BOTANY AND COMMON NAMES OF PLANTS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Those who favor using the common names of plants, instead of the technical names, probably do not realize the confusion that would result in most instances, where exactness is necessary or desirable, if their suggestions were followed. Imagine the pharmacist relying solely upon the common names in selecting such drugs as mandrake, bitter-sweet, coltsfoot and sarsaparilla. Some of his patrons would surely be poisoned and others would die for want of the proper remedy. Scientific names were given to plants for the express purpose of facilitating exact reference to them and it is a mistaken kindness

to teach children and others the common names under the impression that the technical terms are too difficult. Any child who can be taught to say rhinoceros, chrysanthemum or rhododendron can be taught the scientific names of plants and thereby advanced on the road to knowledge, instead of being plunged into a morass of inexact and untrustworthy common names, however poetic. As a matter of fact there is as much poetry and folk-lore in the scientific names as in the common ones. Consider *Campanula*, *Phlox*, *Asplenium* and *Helianthemum*. Are these less euphonious or poetic than such "common" names as Judge Daly's sunflower, Stewardson Brown's Indian turnip, or Brainerd's cat's foot? There is undoubtedly much literary value in the common names of plants, but the same can not be claimed for the "English" or vernacular names with which we have been deluged of late. A common name is a name that is in common use for the plant in some part of the world and therefore entitled to consideration, but an "English" name is too often merely a poor translation of the scientific name and therefore better left in the original. Common names or, if you please, vernacular names, are still being coined—Christmas fern, foam flower, boulder fern, Darwin tulip, and obedient plant are good illustrations—but who expects such "English" names as repand-leaved *erysimum*, Hooker's musinon, Gregg's haploesthes, and tall flat-topped white aster to ever become common? In the opinion of many good observers the declining popularity of botany as a high-school study is due in large measure to the efforts of those well-intentioned but misguided popularizers of plant study who either by assertion or implication give to the scientific study of plants a reputation for difficulty which it does not deserve.

It is well to reflect, therefore, that common names can not be made by fiat. If a plant has a common name, we may well use it in the region where the name is common and therefore understood, but to imagine that there is any special sanctity in the common names as such and to insist upon their use on all occasions is as absurd as for the scientist to use technical