

Edmondson has initiated experimental work at Florence, Newport and Tillamook for the purpose of determining the rapidity of growth, the age, the spawning season and the conditions under which certain of the edible clams best thrive. These experiments will be carried on throughout the year or until satisfactory results are obtained.

A QUESTIONNAIRE was recently circulated among the members of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries of Great Britain for the purpose of obtaining opinions in regard to the adoption of a decimal system of coinage in the United Kingdom, and the substitution of the metric system for the existing United Kingdom weights and measures. Of the replies received 85 per cent. considered that a change to a decimal system of coinage would be favorable to the business in which they were engaged, and 66 per cent. favored a £1 basis of coinage in preference to the "Imperial Crown" or dollar basis. In regard to weights and measures, 86 per cent. favored a change to the metric system, 53 per cent. of whom already used that system in their business. One member expressed the opinion that a strong commission of able men should be asked to decide whether the continental system, which was forced upon countries at a time when violence, rather than reason, prevailed, had been really satisfactory.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

IN honor to Andrew S. Hallidie, inventor of the use of the cable railway for passenger traffic in cities, who was a regent of the University of California from 1878 to 1900, the regents of the university have given the name "Hallidie Building" to a building which they are now erecting in San Francisco as an investment of University endowment funds.

W. J. SPILLMAN, chief of the office of farm management, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has accepted the deanship of the newly created college of agriculture at the State College of Washington. He will take up his new duties April 1, 1918, after he has com-

pleted a survey of the farm labor situation in the United States, upon which he is engaged as an emergency war measure.

A DEPARTMENT of plant pathology has been created by the regents of the State College of Washington, Dr. F. D. Heald, formerly professor of plant pathology, has been made head.

PROFESSOR F. L. WASHBURN of the University of Minnesota has been relieved of his present position in the Agricultural College and station and as state entomologist, and has been given the title of professor of economic vertebrate zoology, to take effect on February 5.

DR. A. L. TATUM, professor of pharmacology in the University of South Dakota, has been appointed assistant professor of pharmacology and physiology in the University of Chicago.

MR. ROY RICHARD DENSLOW, assistant tutor in the department of chemistry, College of the City of New York, has been appointed instructor in Smith College.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE PITTSBURGH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

[The following letter was delayed in the mails and reached SCIENCE just too late for publication in the last number.]

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE:

WHEN the American Association for the Advancement of Science and all similar societies planned their winter meetings, the present situation could not have been foreseen. We had not even entered the war, and did not dream of a congestion of transportation such as now exists. When the present situation had developed, it was (in the opinion of a majority of the committee having power) too late to postpone our meeting.

Transportation is now so greatly overtaxed that necessities of life can barely be carried; the railways should be spared every extra burden. Great simultaneous pilgrimages on important trunk lines are especially to be avoided, since they demand extra trains, need-