UNDER the will of Evelyn MacCurdy Salisbury, of New Haven, widow of the late Professor Edward E. Salisbury, Yale University is to receive the sum of fifty thousand dollars to found a professorship to be called the Charles J. MacCurdy professorship of anthropology, on condition that the university pay to George Grant MacCurdy the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars annually during his lifetime. The will also provides for a conditional annual gift of fifteen hundred dollars to be expended at the discretion of Professor MacCurdy for the benefit of the anthropological department of the Yale Museum. Another provision is that upon the decease of George Grant MacCurdy the sum of sixty thousand dollars is to be paid to either (1) Yale University to found a research fund to be called the Evelyn MacCurdy Salisbury Research Fund in Anthropology; or (2) the Connecticut College for Women at New London to found a professorship of American history as George Grant MacCurdy shall designate by his last will; a power of apportionment as between these two institutions being conferred upon him.

MRS. KING, of Worthing, has given £1,000 five per cent. war stock for the establishment in the University of Cambridge of a scholarship for research work on fevers, in memory of her daughter, Neita King, a member of a voluntary aid detachment who died of cerebro-spinal fever in France last May.

THE Harvard University registration is 3,684, nearly 2,000 less than last year. The Law School shows the greatest decrease, its figures of 856 last year dropping to 296 this year. Two departments show an increased attendance, the Medical School, with an enrolment of 386, a gain of 28 over last year, and the engineering and mining department, with 591, an increase of 14.

WILLIAM M. DAVIS, Sturgis Hooper professor of geology, emeritus at Harvard University, has asked to be relieved of his position as western exchange professor, and his resignation has been accepted.

CHARLES FULLER BAKER, assistant director of the Botanic Gardens at Singapore, and professor of agronomy (on leave) at the College of Agriculture of the Philippines, has been recalled to the Philippines to assume the deanship of the College of Agriculture and the professorship of tropical agronomy due to the mid-year retirement of Dean Copeland.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

GEOLOGIC DATES IN PHYSIOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS

THE protest repeatedly urged by Davis[1] against the unwarranted introduction of formation names and other irrelevant geologic material into geographic descriptions is, no doubt, heartily seconded by the majority of geographers and physiographers.

A good thing may, however, be carried too far.

A case in point, as it appears to the writer, is a description by C. A. Cotton of "Block Mountains in New Zealand," which appeared in a recent number of the *American Journal of Science*.[2]

Cotton's paper is a most commendable example of a physiographic description worked out along the lines advocated by Davis. The material is most effectively presented, but, in accordance with Davis's suggestions, all mention of geologic age, or dates, either of the block faulting movements or of the formations involved, is deliberately and studiously avoided.

This may be desirable from the standpoint of a geographer whose sole interest is in the present landscape, but his geological colleagues are sure to find it disappointing.

The science of geomorphology has now reached such a stage that it has an interpretative as well as a descriptive value. Geologists are coming more and more to rely upon physiographic evidence in interpreting recent earth history. Why, then, should a

[1] Annals Assn. Amer. Geogr., Vol. V., 1915, p. 90.

[2] Cotton, C. A., "Block Mountains in New Zealand," *Am. Jour. Sci.*, 4th Ser., Vol. XLIV., 1917, pp. 249–293.

physiographic contribution of so great possible interpretative value as "Block Mountains in New Zealand" be rendered almost useless to the student of earth history by the deliberate omission of all reference to geologic dates? Surely the incidental mention of the geologic age of the weak over-mass described by Cotton, and of any other events whose geologic dating may have been known, would not have impaired the geographic value of the paper.

By all means let us eliminate unnecessary and irrelevant geologic detail from geographic or physiographic descriptions, but let us not go to the extreme of rendering our geomorphologic studies valueless for their important interpretative functions.

John L. Rich

University of Illinois

Removing Insects from Greenhouse Plants Without Spraying and Without Injury to the Plants

When one is running experiments in the greenhouse and the plants become infested with insects, the disposal of the pests becomes an important question. This question becomes all the more important if the nature of the investigation will not permit the plants to be sprayed. The writers were recently faced with such a problem and solved it by using an apparatus working on the principle of a vacuum cleaner.

A flask was fitted with connections similar to those of a wash bottle, the mouthpiece being connected with a suction pump by a piece of tubing sufficiently long to allow the flask to be moved to any point desired. The nozzle was extended to a point parallel with the bottom of the flask and the opening made sufficiently small to just allow the desired insects to pass readily. By putting a small amount of oil in the flask, for an insecticide, closing the connections and turning on the pump, the apparatus was ready for use. Small plants that were thickly covered with aphids and red spiders were quickly cleaned. Ants and other insects were also readily taken up. It is possible that this apparatus may be modified to meet many requirements by simply changing the size and shape of the nozzle, and by using various kinds of motors and pumps.

Paul Emerson,
J. B. S. Norton

Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, College Park, Md.

Scientific Books

The Electron, Its Isolation and Measurement and the Determination of Some of Its Properties. By R. A. Millikan. University of Chicago Press.

This volume of 260 pages contains an account of the work on the exact determination of the electronic charge and allied subjects done by Professor Millikan and his pupils during the last ten years. It also contains an account of the earlier researches which led up to Millikan's work, and besides a short discussion of recent views on the electron theory of matter and the theory of radiation to which Millikan's exact investigations have added precision in several important ways.

The book is intended for the general reader as well as for the physicist and it will be read by both with immense enjoyment and instruction. It is written clearly and concisely and is full of most interesting and important information.

The only criticsm the writer of this review has to make is that the concluding chapters are too short; they contain so much that is interesting and suggestive that one can not help wishing the writer had found time to make them as full of detail as some of the earlier chapters.

Millikan's beautiful investigations on the electronic charge and on the photo-electric effect are justly celebrated throughout the scientific world; they will undoubtedly become classical examples of the highest type of modern physical research. A description of such researches by their author is immensely valuable and will serve to stimulate scientific investigation as nothing else can.

Every student of physics, and especially every graduate student, should obtain this book and study it thoroughly and then en-