Colorado State Board of Medical Examiners, Chicago.

Tuesday, February 5, separate meetings were held by the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States and the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Nature states that on January 2 the Institution of Civil Engineers of Great Britain completed the hundredth year of its existence, having been established in 1818 at a meeting of eight engineers at the Kendal Coffee House in Fleet Street. At the meeting of the institution on January 8, before the discussion of papers, a statement commemorative of the founding of the institution was made, present conditions precluding a more formal celebration of the centenary.

THE United States Bureau of Mines has broadened the scope of its station at Urbana, Ill., to include work in coal and metal mining and the metallurgical industries of the Middle West. The present safety work will be continued and all work will be conducted under a cooperative agreement with the mining department of the University of Illinois. The bureau staff is under the superintendence of E. A. Holbrook, supervising mining engineer and metallurgist. Other members are W. B. Plank, in charge of mine safety, and F. K. Ovitz, chemist.

IT is expected that the new Field Museum, Chicago, for which ground was broken in the summer of 1915, will be ready for the transfer of the contents of the old museum in Jackson Park by August, 1919. The new building is situated south of Twelfth Street and east of the Illinois Central Station. It is of Georgia marble, and, exclusive of the porticoes, will measure 756 feet long and 350 feet wide. It will cost $5,000,000.

THE annual report of the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, lately published, shows great activity, in spite of the war. During the year 261,594 persons visited the museum. An important new development was in connection with wounded soldiers. Some of the collections were temporarily placed in storage and space was made for a recreation center, including frequent lectures and demonstrations, concerts, library facilities and light refreshments.

THE Minnesota state entomologist has issued an illustrated report of thirty-six pages on work upon the pine blister rust in Minnesota during 1917, in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Plant Industry. Details of inspection, scouting, infections and eradication are given. A limited number of copies are available for distribution. Applications should be mailed to State Entomologist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

BONDS and cash amounting to $1,693,000 representing the trust fund established by Drs. Charles H. and William J. Mayo, Rochester, for carrying on medical research work at the University of Minnesota, have been turned over to the state treasurer.

BY the will of the late Mrs. Charles H. Colburn, of Milford, Mass., a fund of $100,000 is bequeathed to the Harvard Medical School for research in tuberculosis.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has received $3,000 for research work in war problems from an anonymous donor and $5,000 from Clarence Mackay for surgical research work.

W. H. BENDER, associate professor of agricultural education at the University of Minnesota, has resigned to go to the State Agricultural College, Ames, Iowa, as director of vocational education and special supervisor of vocational agriculture.

AT the University of Iowa, Associate Professor R. P. Baker has been made acting head of the department of mathematics. Mr. R. E. Gleason and Mr. F. M. Weida have been appointed instructors in mathematics.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS BY SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In these days of strife for democratic ideals I would like to raise the question whether the method of election followed by many of our scientific societies is not in need of democratization. To begin at home I may say that I have been

a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for twenty years and I think I was consulted only once in regard to a suitable candidate for the presidency of this Association. As far as I know the presidents of this Association have always been selected properly and the selections have perhaps been better than they would have been if a more democratic method had been employed, but it is questionable whether the scientific public of America takes as deep an interest in its leading scientific men as it would have taken if it had really had a part in bestowing a high scientific honor on some of them.

I have been a member of the Society of the Sigma Xi for about twenty years and do not think I have ever had any part in the selection of a candidate for national president, although I voted once or twice for the one who was nominated by a committee. It may be said that I could have wielded an influence in the selection of candidates for these high offices if I had wanted to do so but many of us have so many duties to perform that we seldom go outside this range of interests. The question is whether it should not be put in such a way that a much larger number of the scientific men would regard it as a part of their duty to take an active part in the bestowal of high scientific honors. If this is not done these honors will usually be bestowed by a few men who will generally make wise selections but will fail to arouse much general interest.

In some of the national societies devoted to special subjects there seems to be still greater need for thoroughly democratic methods of election in case we are seeking to establish in America a real democracy along these lines. Many of us regard elections as necessary evils which should receive the least possible attention. There are various other means of expressing scientific appreciation and a scientific democracy should by no means be judged mainly by the methods employed in the selection of officers. These methods have, however, their influence in creating a spirit of openness and wide interest, and it is at least conceivable that the extra labor involved in making scientific elections more democratic would be wisely spent. G. A. Miller

ARE ZOOLOGISTS GOING TO USE THE BNA?

It is perhaps as justifiable as it is interesting that scientists are the slowest people to take hold of new ideas and radical changes. Yet there seems to be little justification for a group of men remaining silent and at the same time failing to use modern inventions in their field which have proved useful and effective.

Most zoologists are familiar with the excellent work of the Commission from the Anatomical Society which undertook the revision of the nomenclature of human anatomy. It must be a great source of satisfaction to this body of men to see how well the anatomists have responded to the simplification and standardization of terms, for now all the textbooks and many of the medical men have adopted the BNA, making a bedlam of terms easy to understand.

However, up to the present time the comparative anatomists and zoologists in general have not adopted or used this nomenclature, so that one may read of the "dorsal root" of a spinal nerve in a pig embryo and the "posterior root" of a spinal nerve in human anatomy. Indeed the workers in the field of human embryology still use terms which do not appear in the BNA.

Perhaps the most confusing set of terms are the following: anterior and posterior; dorsal and ventral, and superior and inferior. It would seem preferable to use drosal and ventral instead of anterior and posterior and then use anterior and posterior to mean superior and inferior, for there seems to be no particular need for upsetting the whole of the comparative terms to accommodate only one type of animal. But this is not a matter for one individual to decide and since the Commission has decided differently and their report has been accepted and adopted, there seems to be but one thing to do, and that is follow their nomenclature. If the zoologists wish to use the words "dorsal and ventral"