

At the meeting of the board of regents of the University of Minnesota on January 18, a proposal by E. C. Kendall and Drs. W. L. and Charles H. Mayo to grant and convey to the University of Minnesota certain rights under letters patent of a discovery by Dr. Kendall of an agent for the treatment of diseases, which has been by him designated "Thyroxin," was submitted, and it was voted to appoint the president, the dean of the department of medicine and Dr. Rowntree a committee to consider the proposed agreement and report to the board.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of General Horace W. Carpenter, a trustee of Columbia University, who died on January 21, at the age of ninety-two years, his residuary estate is divided between Columbia University and Barnard College, providing, it is said, over a million dollars for each institution. Bequests are also made to Columbia University of about \$100,000 for the Dean Lung department of Chinese and about \$200,000 to the medical school. Barnard College receives \$200,000 for scholarships, and \$100,000 is bequeathed to the University of California. There are also bequests to hospitals and for other public purposes.

FOLLOWING the monthly meeting of the Yale corporation it was announced that Professor Russell H. Chittenden had been reappointed director of the Sheffield Scientific School for a term of five years, as requested by the governing board.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM A. RILEY, since 1912 professor of insect morphology and parasitology in the college of agriculture of Cornell University, has been elected professor of parasitology and chief of the division of economic zoology in the University of Minnesota, and will take up his duties there at the beginning of the next academic year.

DR. JOHN H. HAMILTON, of Albany, N. Y., has been called to the State University of Iowa to succeed Dr. M. F. Boyd, as professor of preventive medicine and state epidemiologist.

MR. THOMAS J. MCCARTER, M.A. (Texas, 1916), has been appointed professor of physics

in North-Western College, vice Mr. C. C. Van Voorhis, resigned. Mr. McCarter formerly held a position in the faculty in the University of Texas and more recently with the Bureau of Standards at Washington, D. C.

FRED G. ALLEN, of Erie, Pa., a graduate of the University of Toronto, has been appointed assistant professor of electrical engineering at Lafayette College to take the place left vacant by the resignation of E. D. Tanzer, who has become assistant professor of electrical engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

DR. JOHN T. BLACK, commissioner of health of the State of Connecticut, and Dr. Walter H. Brown, health officer of Bridgeport, have been appointed lecturers on public health at Yale University for the next year.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE DIMINUTION OF THE ANTARCTIC ICE CAP AND THE AMELIORATION OF CLIMATE

IN a recent number of *SCIENCE*, Marsden Manson¹ has directed attention to the highly important scientific results of the Antarctic expeditions under Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton, and has succinctly stated several broad generalizations based upon the data thus obtained. From the majority of these conclusions few glacialists would dissent, but exception must be taken to the main theme that the present diminution of the Antarctic ice cap proves the climate of the world to be undergoing a rise in temperature which will enable the "moss of polar wastes" to "be replaced by rye and wheat."

The position of the margin of ice sheet or valley glacier is a compromise between two factors: the forward or outward motion of the ice, and depletion resulting from melting or from wave action. The ice front advances when the former exceeds the latter; it retreats when the relations are reversed. Variations in the rate of movement of the ice depend upon changes in temperature and in supply of new ice formed from snow. A dry glacier is a

¹ "The Bearing of the Facts Revealed by Antarctic Research upon the Problems of the Ice Age," *SCIENCE*, N. S., Vol. 46, pp. 639, 640, December 28, 1917.