laboratory building. A motion-picture apparatus is being installed in the lecture hall to be used especially in connection with lectures to children. The following lectures were announced:

April 7. "Farming for women." Miss Sophia de M. Carey, official lecturer of the British government; Miss Elizabeth Cleveland and Mrs. Florence Young, Bedford farmerettes and members of the Woman's Land Army of America.

April 14. "The back yard vegetable garden." Miss Jean A. Cross, assistant curator of elementary instruction.

April 21. "Forest products and the war" (Arbor Day Lecture). Professor Samuel J. Record, school of forestry, Yale University.

April 28. "Diseases of garden crops and how to control them." Dr. Edgar W. Olive, curator of Public Instruction.

May 5. "Plant breeding and increased food production." Dr. Orland E. White, curator of Plant Breeding.

May 12. "Bacteriology and the war." Dr. Ira S. Wile, former member of the Board of Education, New York City.

May 19. "Garden insects—good and bad." Dr. E. P. Felt, State Entomologist of New York.

May 26. "Cultivation of drug plants." Dr. W. W. Stockberger, in charge of drug and poisonous plant investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

THE Sigma Xi Society of Syracuse University has arranged a number of public lectures to inform the students and general public of interesting and timely scientific problems. In addition to those already reported the following have been held:

January 11. "The service of botany to the nation during and after the war." Dean Wm. L. Bray, of the Graduate School of Syracuse University.

April 5. "Mt. Katmai and the valley of ten thousand smokes." Professor Robert F. Griggs, of Ohio State University, director of the National Geographic Society's expeditions to Mt. Katmai.

April 19. "The habits of spiders." Professor J. H. Comstock, emeritus professor of entomology of Cornell University.

THE summer meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers will be held in Berlin, N. H., June 19–22. Headquarters will be at Mt. Madison House, Gorham, N. H.

THE National Medical Institute of Mexico, founded in 1890 for research on and exploitation of the flora, fauna and climatology and geography of Mexico has been transformed into the Institute of General and Medical Biology by a recent decree. The institute has been engaged in the study and classification as well as the action of native plants.

THE Royal Academy of Sciences of Turin, Italy, has announced a prize of 26,000 lire, to be awarded for the most remarkable and most celebrated work on any of the physical sciences published in the four years ending December 31. The prize fund is a bequest from a senator of the realm, T. Vallauri. Competition is open to Italian and foreign scientific men, and the term "physical sciences" is to be taken in the broadest sense.

THE Provost Marshal General made public the following: "Under such regulations as the Chief Signal Officer may prescribe, a proportion of the students in institutions in which the Signal Corps has established a course in electrical communication, who have completed at least two and a half years of the course in electrical engineering, or its equivalent, in one of the approved technical engineering schools listed in the War Department, may enlist in the Signal Enlisted Reserve Corps, and thereafter, upon presentation by the registrant to his local board of a certificate of such enlistment, such certificate shall be filed with the questionnaire and the registrant shall be placed in Class 5 on the ground that he is in the military service of the United States."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

UNDER bequests of the late William Brechin Faulds, of Glasgow, a research fellowship in medicine, of the annual value of about £200, tenable for three years, has been founded in the university. The Ferguson trustees have announced their intention of founding a research fellowship in applied chemistry, also of the annual value of £200.

THE new agricultural building of the Maryland State College of Agriculture, costing

$175,000, will be dedicated during "Farmers' Day" at the college on May 30.

THE contract has been let for the construction of a new fireproof chemistry building at the Montana State College, Bozeman. This building replaces the one destroyed by fire in October, 1916. The building will cost $110,000, exclusive of furniture and is 130×60. This forms a unit of a larger building plan to be developed as the institution grows. The building will furnish quarters for the experiment station and college departments of chemistry as well as quarters for the state food and water laboratories.

DR. A. E. KENNELLY, professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed acting head of the electrical engineering department of the institute during the absence of Professor Jackson, who has been commissioned a major.

AT the Harvard Medical School three members of the medical faculty have been promoted to full professorships as follows: Dr. Richard C. Cabot, clinical professor of medicine; Dr. Eugene A. Crockett, Le Compt professor of otology, and Dr. F. S. Newell, clinical professor of obstetrics.

LESTER F. WEEKS, assistant professor of chemistry in the University of Maine, has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry at Colby College to succeed Dr. Robert G. Caswell, who has resigned.

AT Wellesley College, Lincoln W. Riddle, associate professor of botany, William Skarstrom, associate professor of hygiene, and Roxana Hayward Vivian, associate professor of mathematics, have been appointed to full professorships.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

WALNUT POLLEN AS A CAUSE OF HAY FEVER

THE prevalent assumption that the tree pollens play only a minor rôle, if any, as causative factors in hay fever must now be abandoned, since one species alone has been demonstrated to be the cause of hundreds if not indeed thousands of cases in California.

The spring type of this malady is very troublesome in the Sacramento valley, where it has been commonly attributed, even by physicians, to locust and to orange pollen. However, predictions based upon botanical characters that these pollens would give negative results were thoroughly substantiated by intradermal tests in which the pollen extracts were used. At the request of Dr. Grant Selfridge, of San Francisco, the writer therefore visited the city of Colusa in April, 1917, to determine, if possible, the specific cause or causes of the trouble. It was noted that the native California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *Hindsii* Jepson) was much used as a street tree, that the abundant pollen sifted down over the city just at the time when the disease was most prevalent, and that the disease disappeared soon after the close of the flowering period. It was also learned that when patients left the region temporarily to escape the disease they were free from the symptoms, except when passing through towns where the black walnut grew. Finally, the botanical characters of the pollen were exactly those which one would expect in a hay-fever plant. Since this evidence all pointed to the walnut as probably the chief offender, samples of the pollen were gathered and biological tests were made by Dr. Selfridge on some eight subjects. In each case the results were positive.

Twelve hay-fever subjects were also examined at Chico, a neighboring city, where cases are abundant during the spring and where the walnut is much grown as an ornamental tree. In every case positive reactions were obtained with extracts prepared from the California black walnut pollen, whereas the controls gave no reactions. Other pollen extracts gave results in a few cases, indicating that the subjects were sensitive to these also. This was especially true of western mugwort (*Artemisia heterophylla*) which is a common cause of the fall type. The intradermal tests were verified by direct application to the nostrils, and the well-known symptoms of hay fever were immediately produced in each case.

The treatment of numerous hay-fever subjects in the Sacramento and neighboring val-