UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Mr. Hobart W. Williams has given to the University of Chicago property to the value of $2,000,000, the gift being in memory of his father, Eli Buell Williams, and his mother, Harriet B. Williams. Part of the income of this great gift goes toward the development of the school of commerce and administration at the university.

The late Sir George Hare Philipson has by his will bequeathed £2,000 to the University of Durham College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for the foundation of two Philipson scholarships to be awarded to the undergraduate of the college obtaining the highest marks at the M.B. final examination.

Dr. T. Brailsford Robertson, formerly professor of biochemistry and pharmacology in the University of California, has been appointed professor of biochemistry in the University of Toronto. Also, Professor J. J. R. Macleod, formerly professor of biochemistry and physiology in the Western Reserve University, has been appointed professor of physiology in the University of Toronto.

Dr. Elias J. Durand has been appointed professor of botany in the University of Minnesota. Dr. Durand was formerly an instructor at Cornell, but since 1910 has held a professorship in the University of Missouri.

Professor Henry Blumberg, of the University of Nebraska has accepted a position in the mathematical department of the University of Illinois.

Dr. F. S. Nowlan, of Columbia University, has been appointed instructor in mathematics in Bowdoin College.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

BROWN ROT OF SOLANACEÆ ON RICINUS

Bacterium solanacearum, the brown-rot organism, was first described by the senior writer from tomato, potato and eggplant in 1896 and from tobacco in 1908, on each of which it causes a widespread and serious disease. In recent years, chiefly through the studies of Honing in Sumatra, this organism has come to be known as a parasite not restricted to the Solanaceæ but capable of attacking plants of various orders from Urticaceæ to Compositæ, including Leguminosæ (peanut, and indigo), Euphorbiaceæ (*Acalypha*), and Verbenaceæ (young teak trees). Since Honing's discoveries it has been determined in the United States to be the natural cause of a wilt of the peanut (Fulton and Winston) and of the common cultivated Tropæolum (Katherine Bryan). More recently Stanford and Wolf in studying its effects on tobacco in North Carolina have found it also on Southern weeds (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia, Eclipta alba*) and have successfully inoculated it into a variety of plants including *Croton* and *Euphorbia.*

To the already considerable list of natural host plants must now be added the castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*) on which it has appeared to a discouraging extent in several localities in our Southern States (Georgia, Florida) where *Ricinus* has been extensively planted this year to supply lubricating oil for army needs.

The *Ricinus* plants wilt in various stages of growth, often early, the woody part of the stem being stained brown and filled with a gray or brown bacterial slime which when cultivated pure yields the typical colonies an agar poured plates, browns potato cylinders, reduces nitrates, blues litmus milk, and otherwise in media behaves like *Bacterium solanacearum* from other hosts. When cross inoculated to tomato shoots it wilts them promptly, browning the vascular bundles, filling them with the typical gray slime and hollowing the pith into bacterial cavities. With it we have also produced the bacterial wilt on tobacco.

Furthermore, by needle pricks, using a subculture from a typical colony on an agar plate, which was poured from the interior of one of the wilting tomatoes above referred to, we have not only produced the disease again on tomatoes but also have produced it on several other plants known to be subject to *Bacterium solanacearum, e. g., Datura stramonium, Im-*