

A DINNER to celebrate the quartercentenary of the granting of its charter to the Royal College of Physicians of London by King Henry VIII was, as we learn from the *British Medical Journal*, held in France on September 23, and was attended by almost all of the Fellows of the College now serving in that country, to the number of something less than a score. The toast to the College was proposed by the chairman, Major-General Sir Wilmot Herringham, C.B., A.M.S., and a congratulatory address to the College was signed by those present.

THE American Public Health Association held its postponed annual meeting in Chicago, December 9 to 12. The program was designed to bring out all available information concerning the management of epidemic influenza, though other aspects of public health were not neglected. Among the papers on the program were: "Etiology of Influenza," by Major William H. Welch; "Mobilization of Medical and Nursing Forces," by Assistant Surgeon-General J. W. Schereschewsky; "Influenza and Pneumonia Vaccines," by Dr. E. C. Rosenow; "The Use of Sera in Influenza," by Drs. McGuire and Redden; "The Face Mask," by Colonel Charles Lynch and Dr. George Weaver; "Organization of State and Federal Forces in Epidemics," by Assistant Surgeon-General A. W. McLaughlin and Dr. E. R. Kelley; "History and Statistics of the Epidemic," by Assistant Surgeon-General B. S. Warren.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for specialist in animal husbandry and dairying at an entrance salary ranging from \$1,800 to \$2,500 per year. This examination is scheduled to fill a vacancy on the editorial staff of *The Experiment Station Record*, States Relations Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the duties of the appointee will consist mainly of the preparation of technical abstracts of the current scientific literature in animal husbandry (including animal breeding and feeding) and dairying (including dairy farming).

Competitors will not be required to report for examination, but must submit applications and other material on or before January 7, 1919.

THE Bureau of Standards has published a "Metric Manual for Soldiers," the aim of which is to give to the American soldiers the grasp of the metric system which will enable them to think and work in metric units. As recommended no tables of equivalents need be memorized. Brief tables and a vocabulary are given for reference. The units are described by actual examples likely to be encountered in military work.

THE comet discovered by Professor Schorr, of Hamburg Observatory, on November 23, was observed on November 30 from the Naval Observatory at Washington, and the Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin, according to telegrams received at the Harvard Observatory. The comet is very faint, being of the fourteenth magnitude, and is visible only in large telescopes. It is in the constellation Taurus, not far from the bright star Aldebaran.

ANNOUNCEMENTS have been made in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association of a Spanish edition, the initial number of which will appear early in January. For the time being it will be issued semi-monthly. It is proposed to include in it practically all the scientific matter that appears in the *Journal*. Original articles and editorials that are of local or ephemeral interest will not be included.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE sum of £20,000 has been given to the George Watson's College, Edinburgh, by Mr. James Glass, of London, in aid of the establishment of a school of chemistry at that institution.

THE faculty of medicine of Western University, London, Ont., is planning the erection of a new medical college building at an estimated cost of \$100,000.

A RESEARCH fellowship of the annual value of £150 has been founded at Guy's Hospital in

memory of the late Lieutenant R. W. Poulton Palmer and his sister, the late Mrs. E. H. A. Walker, the object of which will be the investigation of obscure diseases in man.

A FIRE on the night of December 17 in the basement of Havermeyer Hall, the chemical laboratory of Columbia University, caused damage estimated at \$10,000.

DEAN EDWARD A. BIRGE has been elected president of the University of Wisconsin to succeed the late Charles R. Van Hise. Dean Birge will serve for two years, when he expects to retire at the age of seventy. He has been a member of the Wisconsin faculty in the department of zoology since 1875, and served as acting president of the university from 1900 to 1903.

DR. HAROLD C. CHAPIN, of the National Carbon Company in Cleveland, has accepted an associate professorship of chemistry at Lafayette College.

THE title of emeritus professor of experimental philosophy has been conferred upon Dr. E. H. Griffiths, F.R.S., on his retirement from the principalship of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AGE FLOW AND EBB OF THE EOCENE SEAS

WE will agree with geologic writers from Wm. Smith's day to this that a typical geological cycle consists of a sequence of arenaceous, argillaceous and calcareous deposits, the strandline moving in as deposit-load increases; in place of littoral sands, clear-sea, calcareous matter eventually becomes dominant.

During the minor subdivisions of geologic time, the ages, for example, wherever continental shelves are very broad and near sea-level, slight changes of this datum plane may produce enormous strand-line shifting without bringing about extensive lime-forming conditions; clays will alternate with sand *ad infinitum*, characterized now by the life of the ocean's flood, now by swamp life during its ebb.

Our southern Eocene deposits seem to

record three such flood stages, separated by two ebb stages.

1. *The Midway Stage* is the oldest, the most generally *marine* with an expanse of gulf waters stretching from South Carolina through west Tennessee and perhaps southern Illinois, thence through Arkansas, southwest to and beyond the Rio Grande.

2. *The Sabine* records the first ebb tide condition over this same great area, a condition conducive to the growth of swamp vegetation, hence the *lignitic* condition of the strata as we see them to-day.

3. *The St. Maurice Stage* records the second notable and generally *marine* condition over much of this area, though extending less deeply into the Mississippi Embayment.

4. *The Claiborne Stage* appears to be, save in Alabama itself, a second great *lignitic* formation. Even at Claiborne, just above the Upper Landing, a road-cut shows the famous *marine* "sand bed" invaded by *lignitic* materials.

5. *The Jackson Stage* may well be looked upon as the last and in some ways the most remarkable of the *marine* accumulations. A quarter of a century ago we marked out a great transgression loop of this stage up into eastern Arkansas but there were then no known evidences of its occurrence in Texas. But the keen eyes of A. C. Veatch soon discovered such evidences in east Texas; others have made valuable contributions in the same direction, and it is quite likely that the *Ostrea contracta* (*georgiana*) beds on the Rio Grande are of this age. To the east, in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas, Cook is doing yeoman's service in expanding our knowledge of this great terrane.

Our conclusions in tabular, condensed form appear thus:

Stage	Water Condition	Sediment
<i>Jackson</i>	<i>Flood</i>	<i>Marine</i>
<i>Claiborne</i>	<i>Ebb</i>	<i>Lignitic</i>
<i>St. Maurice</i>	<i>Flood</i>	<i>Marine</i>
<i>Sabine</i>	<i>Ebb</i>	<i>Lignitic</i>
<i>Midway</i>	<i>Flood</i>	<i>Marine</i>

The Potomac Basin seems to have been generally too deep to show similar responses in