

The indirect fruits of the studies of Mendal and De Vries and their followers are profitable to the race, very profitable, though this was not foreseen probably during the years that monk and professor were working in their gardens on problems of apparently purely theoretical interest. In the light of subsequent events it is easy for us to guess that an intelligent visitor might have appraised these experiments as more likely to be useful at some time to the race than some others which we may imagine him to have seen at about the same period. And we can to-day make just such judgments, leading our students, however elementary, to thoughts no less developing, no less elevating, but more suggestive of possible benefit to themselves and their contemporaries, than others which we may select from our repertoire.

In a meeting which has been filled with interesting and enthusiastic descriptions of work done, a "paper" which contains nothing but reflections may seem the more completely out of place if the question which it asks is not answered in definite terms; but I am so averse to anything which may even seem to dictate what intelligent, thoughtful, conscientious students and teachers should do that, even if I had a formula, I should keep it to myself. My purpose will have been served if, in addition to those who have so far discussed with themselves and others the question before us, we all search for an answer which we can effectively put into action. For the college no less than for business, peace will bring the need of reconstruction; and he who fails to take a long, broad and deep view of the subject of his own greatest interest will fail to share his best with the world which supports him.

GEORGE J. PEIRCE

#### DAVID ERNEST LANTZ

AFTER an illness of only a week, Professor David E. Lantz, assistant biologist in the Bureau of Biological Survey, died of pneumonia at his home in Washington, D. C., on October 7. He was born at Thompsettown, Pa., March 1, 1855, and his early education

was received in the public schools and at the State Normal School at Bloomsburg, Pa., where he graduated with the degree of M.S. In 1878 he removed to Kansas where he became widely known in educational and scientific circles. He served as superintendent of schools at Manhattan, professor of mathematics in the State Agricultural College from 1883 to 1887, principal of the Dickinson County High School, and field agent of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station.

In 1904 he received an appointment in the Bureau of Biological Survey as assistant biologist, and since that time has been occupied mainly in investigating mammals of economic importance. He was particularly active in collecting and applying information in regard to the domestication and uses of native mammals, and published papers on deer farming, raising rabbits for food, muskrats and skunks for fur, and guinea pigs for use in laboratory work. His work was especially important in relation to food conservation in developing and applying practical methods of destroying animals injurious to agriculture and stock raising. He spent much time in the field demonstrating methods of preventing the depredations of prairie-dogs, pocket gophers, jack rabbits, ground squirrels and field mice. More recently he devoted his attention with a considerable degree of success to the organization of cooperative campaigns to destroy rats.

Professor Lantz was always active in scientific circles. He served as secretary and president of the Kansas Academy of Sciences, of which he was a life member. He was also an honorary life member of the Kansas State Horticultural Society, an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a member of the Biological Society of Washington.

While in Kansas, he took a lively interest in its fauna, devoting his spare time largely to collecting specimens and compiling information relating to the vertebrates of that state. He acquired a field and museum knowledge of birds and published a revised edition of Snow's "Birds of Kansas." He also prepared a work-

ing list of Kansas reptiles and batrachians, which, however, have not been printed. In entomology, he was an authority on tiger beetles (*Cicindelidæ*) having brought together an excellent collection of them during his travels in various parts of the United States from the Rocky Mountains eastward.

A voracious and consistent reader along his special lines, he compiled from world-wide sources, during his fourteen years of service with the Biological Survey, a vast amount of information, now carded in his own handwriting in the files of the bureau, supplementary to the results of his experimental work. He wrote as freely as he read, setting forth facts on the printed page in a clear, graceful and interesting style. His numerous papers on economic zoology are well known to farmers and agricultural students in every state in the Union.

The personality of Professor Lantz was kindly and endearing. In field and office alike his gentle humor, patience and industry were an inspiration to his associates, to whom he was ever a cheerful friend and valued counsellor.

NED DEARBORN

#### PROFESSOR LUDVIG SYLOW

THE Nestor of Norwegian mathematicians, Professor Ludvig Sylow, of Christiania, died on September 7, 1918, at the age of eighty-five years. He was known to the mathematicians of every civilized country on account of a well-known theorem which bears his name. In 1876 Frobenius remarked that "as every educated person knows the Pythagorean theorem so does every mathematician speak of Abel's theorem and of Sylow's theorem."

In view of the general interest in the retirement of university professors at sixty-five it may be worth noting that Sylow was appointed professor of mathematics in the University of Christiania after reaching the age of sixty-five years. While various other noted European mathematicians were called to university positions after they had spent years in teaching in secondary institutions, Sylow was

perhaps the only one among them who devoted forty years to teaching in a secondary institution before securing a university chair.

Notwithstanding the advanced age at which Sylow entered the university faculty he is said to have filled the position during twenty years with marked success. The duties of his professorship did not seem to be burdensome to him until the last year of his life when he frequently remarked that he felt tired.

In 1883 he was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences of Göttingen and in 1894 he received an honorary doctor's degree from the University of Copenhagen. His writings related mostly to the theory of substitution groups and to the works of his great countrymen Abel and Lie. He wrote, however, also on the theory of equations and on the complex multiplication of elliptic functions.

G. A. MILLER

#### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

##### THE BRITISH GLASSWARE INDUSTRY

AN article in *Nature* states that the British Chemical Ware Manufacturers' Association, the British Flint Glass Manufacturers' Association, the British Lamp-blown Scientific Glassware Manufacturers' Association and the British Laboratory Ware Association—organizations representing the manufacture and distribution of scientific glassware—have jointly addressed the Inter-Departmental Glass Trades Committee, representing the Board of Trade and the Department of Optical Munitions and Glassware Supply (Ministry of Munitions), setting forth their views as to steps which should be taken to secure the permanent establishment of the trade in Great Britain. They point out that in 1914 the shortage of scientific glassware threatened disaster. Industries such as agriculture, food production of all kinds and the manufacture of armaments, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, gas, dyes, explosives, leather and oil, also the military and civil medical services and the public services responsible for public health and hygiene, which could not be conducted without efficient scientific control, were in danger. The "master key" to the