

been elected vice-president for 1919, automatically becoming president in 1920.

At the meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences on January 30, Major F. R. Moulton gave an address on the "Deviation of the stars."

DR. GREGORY P. BAXTER, professor of chemistry at Harvard University, is giving at the Lowell Institute, Boston, a series of lectures on "Chemistry in the war."

WILLIAM ERSKINE KELLICOTT, professor of biology at the College of the City of New York, died on January 29, at the age of forty years.

DR. BROWN AYRES, since 1904 president of the University of Tennessee and previously professor of physics and dean of the School of Technology of Tulane University, died on January 28, aged sixty-two years.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A SCHOOL for social research in New York City has been organized to meet the needs of those interested in social, political, economic and educational problems. The school will open with a full program in October, 1919. In the meantime, lectures will be given from February 10 to May 3 by Professor Thorstein Veblen, James Harvey Robinson, Charles A. Beard and others.

DR. W. R. BLOOR, formerly assistant professor of biological chemistry at the Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass., has been appointed professor of biochemistry and head of the division of biochemistry and pharmacology at the University of California.

MR. C. S. MCKELLOGG, corporal in the Chemical Warfare Service, stationed at the American University, has been furloughed to the University of Mississippi as assistant professor of chemistry, where he is to have charge of the work in organic and physiological chemistry.

DR. LÉON FRÉDÉRICQ, who was professor of physiology at Liège and later at Ghent, was imprisoned by the Germans because he refused

to continue his courses in Flemish after the Germans had taken the city and were trying to remodel the university to be a Flemish institution. The government of Belgium has now appointed Professor Frédéricq lord rector of the university.

DR. JULES DUESBERG, will sever his connections as a member of the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University and will sail for Belgium on February 12. Dr. Duesberg went to Baltimore in 1915. He is a native of Liège and in 1911 was made professor of anatomy at Liège University, where he will now resume his work.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE ON MONKEYS TRAINED TO PICK COCO NUTS

READERS of the Sunday editions of some of our metropolitan papers may recall that in the fall, the season of cotton picking in the South, waggish space writers sometimes make the suggestion that monkeys be trained to do this work and that thereby the shortage of labor be relieved.

In this connection there have come under my notice during the past year accounts showing that in a far distant part of the world monkeys are trained to do service which, for want of a better descriptive title, may be called manual labor. The first of these is from the well-known woman traveller, Isabella Bird. In her interesting book "The Golden Chersonese and the Way Thither" (1883) she writes on page 425:

A follower had brought a "baboon," an ape or monkey trained to gather coconuts, a hideous beast on very long legs when on all fours, but capable of walking erect. They called him a "dog-faced baboon," but I think that they were wrong. . . . He is fierce, but likes or at all events obeys his owner, who held him with a rope fifty feet long. At present he is only half tame, and would go back to the jungle if liberated. He was sent up a coconut tree which was heavily loaded with nuts in various stages of ripeness and unripeness, going up in surly fashion, looking around at intervals and shaking his chain angrily. When he got to the top he shook the fronds and stalks, but no nuts fell, and he chose