

plorations in Eastern Asia. He was brother of Robert V. Anderson, late of the U. S. Geological Survey, now representing the War Trade Board at Stockholm.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late Morton F. Plant, the Connecticut College for Women receives a bequest of \$250,000.

Two years ago Professor and Mrs. Herdman gave to the University of Liverpool, the sum of £10,000 to establish a chair in memory of their son, Lieutenant George A. Herdman, who was killed in action. *Nature* states that they have now made a further gift of £10,000 for the purpose of establishing a chair of oceanography with special reference to fisheries. The council of the university has accepted this gift with grateful thanks, and has resolved that (1) Professor Herdman be appointed professor of oceanography as from October 1 next; (2) Dr. J. Johnson succeed him on October 1, 1920, and during the twelve months from October 1 next be lecturer on oceanography at the salary derived from the endowment.

THE senate of the University of Cambridge has approved the plan for the establishment of the degree of doctor of philosophy. The syndicate dealing with this question recommends that, subject to certain exemptions, candidates for the degree, before submitting a dissertation, must have pursued a course of research for not less than three years, and the senate has determined that of this period one year in the case of a graduate of the university and two years in the case of other students must be spent in Cambridge.

SIR OLIVER LODGE has retired as principal of Birmingham University.

THE resignation of Dr. Harry B. Hutchins, as president of the University of Michigan, which was presented on October 12, 1916, has now been accepted by the regents to take effect on June 30. It is reported that Dr. James Rowland Angell, professor of psychology and dean of the department of arts and sciences of

the University of Chicago, will be asked to accept the presidency.

DR. JOHN JOHNSTON, secretary of the National Research Council in Washington, has been appointed professor of chemistry in the Graduate School of Yale University. Professor Johnston is a graduate of the University of St. Andrews.

LIEUTENANT KARL SAX, recently discharged from military service in the coast artillery at Fort Amador, Canal Zone, Panama, has been appointed instructor in genetics at the University of California.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

DESMOGNATHUS FUSCUS (SIC).

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Professor Wilder's letter recalls a proposal made by Mr. Oldfield Thomas and myself, a proposal worth repeating. Zoological nomenclature has many inevitable difficulties to overcome, and it will save time and disputes if there be removed from it the extrinsic burden of trying to conform with the rules of Greek and Latin grammar. Let the convention be established that the name of a genus, whatsoever its derivation, be regarded as masculine when the genus denotes a group of living animals, feminine if it denote a group of living plants, and neuter if it denotes a fossil animal or plant. Let it be agreed that the scientific name of an existing species may be changed to accord with this conventional sex where possible, and that in the making of new names, the accord should be made by the author, corrected by the editor or by any subsequent writer. This would simplify matters and, in a considerable proportion of instances would give useful information.

P. CHALMERS MITCHELL

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have read with interest and some amusement the letter by Mr. H. H. Wilder, on "*Desmognathus fuscus* [sic]." It seems to me to lend additional support to the suggestion made years ago by my friend, the Rev. T. R. R. Stebbing, that