1909 Mr. Mathieson completed a survey of Prince Charles Foreland, Spitsbergen, which was begun in 1906 by Dr. W. S. Bruce, director of the Scottish Oceanographical Laboratory.

In connection with the physiology of the nervous system, given as a part of the course in general physiology at the Tufts College medical school, a series of three lectures was delivered on July 21, 22 and 23, by A. P. Weiss, of the department of psychology of Ohio State University, on "The place of behavior psychology in physiology."

The following lecturers at the Royal College of Physicians of London are announced: Dr. J. L. Birley, the Goulstonian; Sir W. Leishman, the Horace Dobell; Sir J. Rose Bralford, the Lumleian; and, for 1921, Dr. J. L. Golla, the Croonian.

The death is announced at the age of sixty-seven years of Dr. Emil Fischer, professor of chemistry in the University of Berlin. Dr. Fischer was awarded a Nobel prize in 1902.

Included in the Army Appropriation Bill, now passed by Congress, is an appropriation of $20,000 for the Surgeon-General's Library, and for the preservation of specimens for the Army Medical School, Washington, $10,000. An appropriation of $350,000 is made for the purchase of twenty-six acres of land adjoining Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, for the final location of the Army Medical School, Surgeon-General's Library and the Army Museum, and for the improvements on the land to be purchased.

The thirteenth annual meeting of the British Museums Association was held at Oxford, on July 8, and the two following days. Members were welcomed by Sir Herbert Warren, president of Magdalen. An address was given by the president, Sir H. Howarth, followed by the reading of a series of papers on museums in Oxford. Wednesday morning was occupied by discussions on the propriety of transferring the control of museums to the education authority, and on various matters of detail. On Thursday Dr. W. Evans Hoyle, curator of the Welsh Museum, Dr. F. A. Bather, of the Natural History Museum, and Mr. Isaac Williams, of Cardiff opened a discussion on the desirability of establishing a diploma for museum curators, and on the course of training that should be required. In the afternoon visits were paid to local museums and places of historic interest.

We learn from the London *Times* that the fifth annual general meeting of the Medico-Political Union was held in London on June 12. Dr. F. Coke, in his presidential address, said that 367 new members had joined during the last month. The report of the general secretary regretted the hostility which had sprung up between the British Medical Association and the Union. "The Association had for many years," the report proceeded, "while decrying trade unionism, been employing trade-union methods with impunity, until the Coventry case shattered their claims and left us as the only body adequately equipped to carry on a fight on behalf of the profession. I am pleased to say that the association, or certain of its members, recognize facts, and an attempt is now being made to reconcile differences." As to the formation of a ministry of health, the report stated that it foreshadowed drastic changes in the medical services at an early date. Those changes would benefit neither the community nor the profession, unless the latter had a large voice in shaping them. It was the duty of that union to impress on government departments the importance of the general practitioner as the backbone of the medical profession, and the fact that he was better equipped to give advice than those occupying a more exalted position. Resolutions were also passed in favor of the organization of the whole of the medical profession on a trade-union basis, and to the effect that a whole-time salaried service for general practitioners was undesirable.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

The contract has just been signed for an addition to the laboratory of the department

of chemistry of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to cost $175,000. The new wing will be devoted to laboratories for quantitative analysis, organic chemistry and physical chemistry. The new construction is necessary because of the growth in the number of students taking the courses in chemical engineering and general science.

DR. E. J. KRAUS, dean of service departments at the Oregon Agricultural College, has been appointed professor of applied botany at the University of Wisconsin.

PROFESSOR ALFRED ATKINSON, professor of agronomy in the Montana State College, succeeds President J. M. Hamilton, who has retired after serving for fifteen years.

MAJOR HENRY A. MATTILL, Sanitary Corps, formerly assistant professor of nutrition at the University of California, returned early in March from France, where he had charge of instruction in food and nutrition in the army schools at Langres. Dr. Mattill has accepted a junior professorship in biological chemistry at the University of Rochester.

DR. V. BUSH, now engineer of the American Radio and Research Co., has been appointed associate professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

THE following promotions at Lehigh University have been announced: Assistant Professor R. L. Charles, physics, to become associate professor; Mr. P. B. Fraim, physics, assistant professor; Mr. J. S. Beamensderfer, mechanical engineering, assistant professor; Mr. H. C. Payrow, civil engineering, assistant professor, and Mr. M. S. Knebelman, mathematics, assistant professor.

AT Cambridge University Mr. W. E. Dixon, Downing College, has been appointed reader in pharmacology; Mr. J. E. Purvis, Corpus College, university lecturer in chemistry and physics in their application to hygiene and preventive medicine; Dr. Graham-Smith, university lecturer in hygiene, and Mr. T. S. P. Strangeways, St. John's, university lecturer in special pathology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

LIMICOLOUS OLIGOCHÆTA FOR LABORATORY USE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I should like to bring to the attention of teaching zoologists the advantages of living limicolous oligochæta, preferably a *Tubifex* or a *Limnodrilus,* for laboratory purposes in connection with exercises on the earthworm. In the movement which is developing in elementary courses to get away from mere study of structure, the introduction of some convenient and usable form for demonstrating functional activity in connection with so important a type as the earthworm is desirable. At Ohio State University we have used *Limnodrilus* with success. It is sufficiently transparent to allow the internal structures and processes of the annelid body to be observed. The entire alimentary tract is visible and the peristaltic action of the intestine can be demonstrated together with the effect this has on the material in the intestine. Frequently, too, it is possible to see the movements of the pharynx during ingestion. The contraction and the direction of blood flow in the main blood vessels can be observed. The movement of the setæ and their connection with the muscles operating them are also to be seen. The relation of the septa to body wall and intestine and the division of the cœlom into compartments is clearly apparent. It will thus be seen that these worms not only illustrate the annelid body, but also demonstrate functions of general application.

For laboratory use it is best to anesthetize the worms to the point of immobility. They should be placed in a watch glass partly filled with water and to this should be added a few drops of a saturated solution of chloretone. It is best to use a little at first, allow it to work for a while and then if necessary add more. The dish should be covered. With a little practise it is possible to have the worms immobile and yet keep the blood vessels and intestine active. For demonstrating ingestion and movement of the setæ no anesthetic should be used. Of course all activities are at their best in the unanesthetized worm if students have time and patience to follow the speci-