

in the research laboratories of the Department of Health of New York City under the direction of Dr. Cecil.

MAJOR R. G. HOSKINS, who has been for the past four months in charge of the Section of Food and Nutrition of the Surgeon-General's Office, has received his discharge from the service. He will spend the current academic year studying at the Johns Hopkins Medical School.

PROFESSOR F. K. RICHTMYER is on sabbatic leave for a year from Cornell, devoting a part of his time to research in the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company, at Schenectady.

MR. JOSEPH MAILLIARD, honorary curator of ornithology, of the California Academy of Sciences, left San Francisco on September 15 with his assistant, Mr. Luther Little, to collect birds in Mendocino county, California. Mr. Mailliard secured a representative collection from this territory in June and now is covering the same ground to note seasonal changes and variations.

DR. J. A. LECLERC has resigned from the Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and is now with the Miner-Hillard Milling Company of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that the University of Pisa recently organized a festal meeting to honor the fiftieth professional anniversary of Professor G. Romiti of the chair of anatomy. A marble portrait bust was unveiled, and Professor Romiti presented the university with his valuable library on anatomy.

THE first lecture of the series of the Harvey Society will be given at the New York Academy of Medicine on October 18, by Lieutenant-Colonel George Dreyer, M.D., professor of general pathology, Oxford University, on "Biological Standards and their Application to Medicine." The second lecture of the series will be given on October 25 by Dr. H. H. Dale, of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, London, on "Shock."

DR. AUGUST HOCH, who was for seven years the director of the Psychiatric Institute on

Ward's Island, died on September 23, in San Francisco.

A LEGACY of \$60,000 has been made by the late Dr. Rizzi, physician in chief of the Ospedale Maggiore at Milan, to found an institute for the research and practise of biochemistry.

THE legislature of Alabama has passed the Alabama Mental Deficiency bill which appropriates \$200,000 for the establishment of the Alabama Home for Mental Inferiors at Tuscaloosa in connection with the Bryce Hospital. As a part of the campaign for securing the passage of this measure, Dr. W. D. Partlow, superintendent of the Alabama Insane Hospitals, and Dr. Thomas H. Haines, field agent for the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, made a careful mental survey of the four industrial schools of the state last May. This was a cooperative piece of work of the Alabama State Board of Health and the National Committee for Mental Hygiene. One hundred and twenty-nine of the six hundred and fifty-four juvenile delinquents in the schools were found to be so defective in mental ability as to demand institution care of a custodial sort for their proper management. These facts proved a potent argument in securing the appropriation.

THE *Fédération française des sociétés de sciences naturelles* has been formed consisting of thirteen society units: les Sociétés Zoologique, Entomologique, d'Acclimatation, de Pisciculture; l'Association des Anatomistes; les Sociétés de Botanique, de Mycologie, de Pathologie végétale; la Société philomatique; la Société géologique; la Société des Naturalistes parisiens; la Société de Chimie biologique. It is proposed to establish five categories for the purpose of bibliographic documentation: (1) botany; (2) anatomy and embryology; (3) zoology; (4) general biology, and (5) physiology.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A NEW mechanical engineering building and a new physics building are nearing completion

at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The Texas Legislature has recently provided \$250,000 for an agricultural building also. Plans and specifications are now being drawn for this building which will be started next summer.

THE Georgia Legislature, at its recent session, increased its appropriation for the medical department of the State University from \$30,000 to \$55,000. Of the new funds, the sum of \$20,000 is to be used to establish a course in Public Health and Hygiene, and the sum of \$5,000 is to be added to the general income of the school.

IN the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania Dr. William H. F. Addison has been made a full professor of histology and embryology; Dr. Oscar H. Plant has been promoted to a full professorship in pharmacology; Dr. Byron M. Hendricks and Raymond Stehle have been promoted to assistant professorships of physiologic chemistry.

DR. HERBERT S. LANGFELD has been appointed director of the psychological laboratory of Harvard University and Dr. L. T. Troland and Dr. Floyd H. Allport, have been appointed instructors in psychology. Dr. William McDougall, whose appointment as professor of psychology was reported in a recent issue of SCIENCE, will take up his work at the beginning of the next academic year.

THE department of botany of Kansas State Agricultural College has been reorganized and is now carrying on its work in the college and experiment station under the name of the department of botany and plant pathology. L. E. Melchers, for two years acting head of the department, has been made professor of plant pathology and head of the department. E. C. Miller, formerly associate professor, has been promoted to be professor of plant physiology. The other members of the department are Assistant Professors W. E. Davis and F. C. Gates, Instructors H. H. Haymaker and Nora E. Dalbey, and Assistant Dorothy Cashen.

THE new chair of physical education at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas

has been filled by Dr. W. J. Young, who held the rank of captain in the National Army during the war. Previously he was director of physical education in the University of Maine. Professor D. Scoates has been appointed head of the department of agricultural engineering to succeed Professor R. A. Andree, who has resigned.

GEORGE P. BACON, of Simmons College, has been appointed to succeed Dr. H. H. Marvin, of Tufts College, who is going to the University of Nebraska, as head of the department of physics. Professor Bacon is to be chairman of the department of physics at Tufts College.

DR. R. E. LOVING, head of the department of physics in Richmond College, has been granted leave of absence for the current session, which he will spend doing special work in Cornell University. C. H. Willis, late of the Signal Corps, A. E. F., and V. E. Ayre, from the Bureau of Standards, have recently been appointed, respectively, acting professor and assistant professor in the department.

LIEUTENANT HORACE A. HOLADAY, Sanitary Corps, nutrition officer at the port of embarkation at New Port News, Va., formerly assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Idaho, has been appointed professor of physiological chemistry and head of the division of food and physiological chemistry at North Dakota Agricultural College.

RALPH J. GILMORE, Ph.D. (Cornell), of Huron College, has been appointed head of the department of biology of Colorado College, succeeding Dr. E. C. Schneider, who becomes head of the department of biology at Connecticut Wesleyan College.

DR. JOHN L. SHELDON, who has had charge of the work in botany and bacteriology in the West Virginia University for the past sixteen years, has resigned. The university has also lost recently the heads of the departments of animal husbandry, agronomy, horticulture, public speaking and philosophy.

DR. J. G. FITZGERALD, associate professor of hygiene, University of Toronto, and director of the Connaught Antitoxin Laboratories in the

same institution, has been appointed professor of hygiene, succeeding Dr. John A. Amyst, who has been appointed deputy minister of health in the Federal Department of Health, Ottawa. Dr. Fitzgerald will continue to act as director of the Connaught Laboratories.

PROFESSOR L. BARD, who for twenty years has held the chair of clinical medicine at the University of Geneva, has accepted a corresponding position at the University of Strasbourg.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

EMIL FISCHER AFTER THE WAR

THE reading of Professor Harrow's highly appreciative account, in *SCIENCE* of August 15, of Emil Fischer and his work recalls to me a meeting that I had with Fischer in February of this year in Berlin. I have referred, in a recent little book¹ about Germany and Germans since the war, to a conversation which Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor and I, officially representing Mr. Hoover and the American Food Administration, had in our rooms in the Hotel Adlon in Berlin one Sunday morning last February with three distinguished German scientific men. The conversation was primarily an interview with these well-informed men on the subject of the German food situation; we were there to try to find out just what food importations were immediately necessary to keep the German people from further suffering and danger. We had talked with responsible officials of the new German government, and been presented with various official statements by them, but we wanted to check these by any unofficial information we could obtain. Hence this Sunday morning meeting in our hotel rooms with Karl Ballod, Germany's foremost economic statistician, Nathan Zuntz, one of her first animal physiologists, and Emil Fischer, her great organic chemist. But as scientific and university men our talk ran rather freely and frankly, and touched other matters than food statistics.

It was a conversation of fascinating interest,

¹ "Germany in the War and After," 1919, Macmillan Co., N. Y.

with Fischer the dominant figure in it. Ballod, tall and spare, of serious mien, was rather restrained and precise; Zuntz, small and active, even smiling, was perhaps a little exaggeratedly gracious; Fischer, heavy-bodied, vigorous and emphatic, was easy and with no trace of self-consciousness. All agreed on the terrible seriousness of the situation but each had special views as to the more pressing necessities and means of meeting them. All declared that they had realized for more than a year the practical certainty of Germany's ultimate collapse, but replying to our questions as to why they had not used their knowledge of the fatal food and general economic situation to prevail on the German authorities to try to end the war while an ending might be made that would be less disastrous than any that could come after a further persistence in the struggle, all declared their complete helplessness to exercise a sufficient influence on rulers or people. "We should not have been heard at first and before we could push the matter to a general hearing we should have been in prison or have had to flee the country to avoid it. Remember Forster and Nicolai and Muehlton," they said.

They told of their own difficulties to find food for themselves and families, despite their sufficient financial means, and then spoke especially of the terrible hardships of their less well paid colleagues and small-salaried assistants. Fischer, in particular, revealed his sympathy for his distressed helpers, while all three spoke of the serious handicap the situation had been on the work in the scientific institutions with which they were affiliated.

But while Ballod looked on the future darkly, and Zuntz with no confidence, Fischer was more sanguine. He said: "We have got to start again, but we *can* start." When we told him that both America and England had made some headway during the war period in the production of dyes and optical glass and some other things that had been a monopoly of Germany in the days before the war, and that we should be far more independent in such ways than we had been before, Fischer was silent a moment, thoughtful and serious of face, but soon looked up and said: "Well, that