

Hans Gertz of the physiological laboratory of the Karolinska Institut for his work on the functions of the labyrinth. It was published in the *Nordisk Medicinskt Arkiv* in 1918.

THE president and fellows of Magdalen College of Oxford University on the express recommendation of the General Board of the Faculties decided to award a pension of £450 per annum to Professor, Sydney Howard Vines, M.A., F.R.S., F.L.S., fellow of the college, and honorary fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, who is resigning the Sherardian chair of botany with the fellowship on December 31 next, after a tenure of thirty-one years. This is the first occasion on which the new system of pensions for professors instituted by the college with the approval of the university has been brought into operation.

PROFESSOR EDGAR JAMES SWIFT, head of the department of psychology of Washington University, has been invited to give two lectures before the officers and students of the Post Graduate School of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. The subjects of these lectures are "Thinking and Acting" (February 14), and "The Psychology of Handling Men" (April 10).

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

At the dinner of the alumni of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, held in Cambridge on January 10, it was announced that the endowment fund of four million dollars had been obtained by the alumni, thus securing the gift of an equal sum from the hitherto anonymous "Mr. Smith." It was revealed that "Mr. Smith," who has now given eleven million dollars to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is Mr. George Eastman, president of the Eastman Kodak Company.

THE trustees of Oberlin College have granted increases of salaries for all in the service of the institution. Early in the fall the faculty of the college appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Professor C. G. Rogers to consider the salary needs of the members of

the faculty. The report of the committee, approved by the faculty, was transmitted to the trustees, and findings calling for a fifty per cent. increase in the salaries of all teaching and administrative officers of the college, dating from September 1, 1919, were approved. This action adds about \$175,000 to the annual budget of the college.

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made at the University of Pennsylvania of a gift of \$50,000 from the estate of William C. Goodell for the establishment of a chair of gynecology in the medical school. The trustees have adopted a resolution providing that as far as possible rooms and facilities for the carrying on of research work be extended to emeritus professors in all departments.

THE pathological buildings of the Johns Hopkins Hospital group, the professional workshop of Dr. William H. Welch, was wrecked by fire, January 12. It is said that none of the valuable specimens was lost, nor were any of the records of research work damaged.

PROFESSOR A. P. COLEMAN, geology, has been elected dean of the faculty of arts of the University of Toronto. Professor J. Playfair McMurrich, anatomy, has been elected chairman of the board of graduate studies, which corresponds with the graduate faculty in many universities.

DR. HAROLD PRINGLE, lecturer on histology and assistant in the department of physiology in the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed professor of physiology in Trinity College, Dublin, in the room of the late Sir Henry Thompson.

DR. F. W. KEEBLE, assistant-secretary of the British Board of Agriculture, has been elected to the Sherardian professorship of botany of Oxford University in succession to Professor S. H. Vines.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE POLYDOGMATA OF THE PHYSICIST

THE mind of the physicist may be said to be somewhat in confusion. But there is no reason to hope that it ever will enjoy the

logical perfection of a consistent set of theories. He constructs the electromagnetic theory of light and must needs adhere to it on many occasions, yet with full knowledge that it can not be correct. He rejoices in the existence of the universal constant, h , and the appearance of the quantum, $h\nu$, in resonance and ionization potentials, in photoelectric X-ray phenomena, and in the theory of heat radiation, yet he can not be reconciled to the existence of the quantum in the phenomenon of the passage of light through a vacuum. He builds an atomic structure which will not only provide a clear picture, but will also furnish quantitative results in striking agreement with experiment; and yet he must, in his building, reject certain principles which elsewhere he adopts without hesitancy. He rejoices in the achievement of the general theory of relativity, which, unless proved untenable, gives a logical consistency at present—and probably for many, many years, unattainable by other means; yet in his constructive thinking he sometimes uses the ether which the general theory of relativity ignores, and he lives in his old Euclidean world which the present developments from this theory deny.

In short, the physicist can not be consistent. Moreover, he can not progress unless this inconsistency is a stimulus and not an annoyance. He must live as if in several compartments, enjoying in each one the consistency possible therein, and being not distressed but rather interested and invigorated by the failure to unite these compartments into one consistent whole. If he "believes," he must be inconsistent. If he progresses, he must adopt a set of dogmas in the small compartment in his immediate problem. If he follows with full sympathy modern progress in physics, he must have not one, but many dogmas, and these not wholly consistent with one another.

I refer not merely to the multiple-theory method of attack upon a problem, for the dogmas are not even altogether similar in kind, but more especially to the ability to appreciate thoroughly not only "constructive

theories," but also "theories of principle" (quoting from Einstein) It is not merely the approach from a different viewpoint in the same universe, but it is the ability to live in more than one universe.

All of this may be obvious, but yet, in point of fact, now and again there appears evidence that even physicists of note are pained by this rôle. They seem to resist by objections which do not aid in the extension of these compartments, or by a rebellion against the obviously advantageous policy of polydogmata.

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TOTEM POLES FOR MUSEUMS

FIFTY years ago some of the best totem poles of the Haida Indians of Queen Charlotte Islands cost the Indians several thousand dollars each. To-day many of these may be purchased for a dollar and a half or two dollars a foot. That is, an average totem pole can be purchased, crated and put aboard a steamer at Masset for about one hundred dollars.

Many of the Haida totem poles have disappeared. A few have been taken to museums where they are preserved; some have been burned; many have decayed. Several, seen during the past summer, at Yan opposite Masset, have recently been blown over by the wind. In a few years all will have disappeared unless means are taken to save specimens of this art for the future. However the other tribes having totem poles may feel at this date, the Haidas have come to the point of neglecting the poles and being willing to sell them. They are owned by families, and negotiations as with an estate are necessary for properly obtaining them.

This North Pacific art is one of the treasures of Canada and the United States. Examples of it should be preserved in each large city of the continent. It may not be generally known how easily this can be done.

In the summer the Haidas of Masset are busy fishing. In the spring they have less to do and some are in need of money. Mr. Alfred Adams or Mr. Henry Edensaw are trust-