

the late Sir William Osler, in which he emphasizes the genial cosmopolitan spirit of this great physician. It appears that Osler was the first physician to inquire into the rumors concerning the economic condition of the Viennese population after the war and the first to take measures for the relief of the starving Viennese.

DR. JAMES GAYLEY, past president of the Institute of Mining Engineers, has died at the age of sixty-five years.

PROFESSOR ERNEST M. JORDAN, a member of the faculty of the Boston University Medical School since 1913, and a specialist in nervous diseases, died on March 15.

PROFESSOR CHARLES LAPWORTH, for many years professor of geology and physiography in the University of Birmingham, died on March 13 at the age of seventy-seven years.

DR. PIER ANDREA SACCARDO, emeritus professor of botany in the Royal University of Padua, and long director of the Botanical Garden of that city, has died at the age of seventy-five years.

WORD has been received of the death on December 13 last, of Professor Woldemar Voigt, the eminent mathematical physicist of the University of Göttingen, at the age of sixty-nine years. Being a man of broad mind with friends in all the warring countries, he suffered keenly throughout the war and this is said to have aggravated the heart trouble which was the immediate cause of his death. His writings include papers and books in many fields of physics, but chiefly in magneto-optics and crystal physics.

THE Carnegie Corporation has given to the American College of Surgeons \$75,000 to be used for hospital standardization. The present gift is the second which the corporation has made to the college. In 1916 it gave \$30,000, making a total now of \$105,000 for hospital standardization. This amount is supplemented by funds of the college.

THE Institute of Research in Animal Nutrition at Aberdeen has received a gift of £10,000 from Mr. J. Q. Rowett. The amount

required from public sources for the establishment of the institution is £25,000.

THE Biological Laboratory of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences will hold its thirty-first session during July and August. Investigators can find accommodation at any time during the summer. The usual courses are offered in field zoology by Drs. Walter, Kornhauser and Parshley, in comparative anatomy by Dr. Pratt, systematic and field botany by Drs. Harshberger and Stiteler and beginning advanced work under the direction of the various instructors. The Eugenics Record Office, Carnegie Institution of Washington, takes advantage of the arrangements for boarding students at Cold Spring Harbor to give its training course for field workers in eugenics at the same time with the session of the Biological Laboratory (Drs. Davenport and Laughlin.) The announcement for 1920 can be secured by addressing the Biological Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, L. I.

DURING the period of the Christmas meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an anthropological society was organized in St. Louis, largely under the stimulation of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička who visited the city at that time. The object of the society as stated in the constitution is the promotion of research in all branches of anthropology. The officers are: *president*, Professor R. J. Terry; *vice-president*, Dr. H. M. Whelpley; *secretary-treasurer*, Dr. C. H. Danforth, *councilors*, Drs. W. W. Graves, Albert Kuntz, R. Walter Mills, Sherwood Moore, Daniel M. Schoemaker and Mr. J. Max Wulfinf. Two regular meeting have been held. At the first Dr. R. Walter Mills presented a paper on "Variation in Physical Type and Visceral Function," and at the second Dr. H. M. Whelpley spoke on "Notched Indian Hoes, The Most Specialized of Indian Agricultural Implements."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Medical College of the state of South Carolina has received an appropriation of

\$71,000 from the state for maintenance, as compared with \$49,500 last year. An additional appropriation of \$60,000 was made for a physiology building and equipment.

THE proposal to admit women to be fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh after examination, on the same conditions and with the same privileges as men, has been accepted.

DR. H. MONMOUTH SMITH, who is at present assistant director of the Carnegie Nutrition Laboratory in Boston, and who was formerly connected with Syracuse University, has been appointed a professor of inorganic chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

PROFESSOR FRANK C. WHITMORE, of the University of Minnesota, has succeeded Professor Harry A. Curtis as professor of organic chemistry in Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

MR. J. D. BLACK has been appointed professor and chief of the division of agricultural economics at the University of Minnesota, in the place of W. W. Cumberland, whose leave of absence for service in Turkey as financial and economic adviser to the commission to negotiate peace between the Allies and Turkey has been continued for another year.

MR. A. AMOS, of Downing College, has been appointed lecturer in agriculture in Cambridge University.

DR. HUGO FUCHS, professor of anatomy at the University of Königsberg, has been transferred to the University of Göttingen, succeeding Professor Merkel.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE ATTAINMENT OF HIGH LEVELS IN THE ATMOSPHERE

IN the March 19, 1920, issue of *SCIENCE* appeared an article by Alexander McAdie, entitled "The Attainment of High Levels in the Atmosphere." As certain incorrect statements which are detrimental to the Curtiss Aeroplane & Motor Corporation appeared therein the following correction is made. No

criticism of Professor McAdie is intended, nor any desire on his part to misstate a fact is in any sense suspected.

Unauthorized statements are made in the press, the results of which are far reaching. One of these is the innocent acceptance of them by Professor McAdie as being correct and the corresponding reappearance of the incorrect values in the above mentioned article.

On September 18, 1919, Roland Rohlfs, the test pilot of the Curtiss Engineering Corporation, made an altitude flight, obeying in every particular the official rules laid down for such contests. It should be stated here that the compliance with these rules is a serious handicap and in justice the same conditions should be observed by all competitors.

The flight was made in a Curtiss triplane fitted with a K-12 motor without supercharger and without the use of special fuel. The result obtained from the barograph chart by the Bureau of Standards after all corrections for instrumental errors had been made was 34,910 feet, this value being, however, uncorrected for the average temperature of the air column. The instrumental corrections to the barograph readings were determined by subjecting the instrument to the same variations of pressure and temperature in the laboratory as those encountered during the actual flight.

The value of 34,910 feet, although uncorrected for air temperatures was homologated, this being strictly according to the 1919 rules and was of interest for comparison with the French altitude flight of Jean Casale made June 14, 1919, which was calculated by the same method.

It is well known that this way of expressing results, that is, without air temperature corrections, is not only unsatisfactory and unfair but also scientifically incorrect and the Curtiss Company has always admitted that the true (tape line) altitude reached by Rohlfs became 32,450 feet when the air temperature correction, also made by the Bureau of Standards, was applied. There is thus a large but proper reduction in the indicated altitude. This correction is the larger the colder the air encountered in the flight.