

gery at the University of Louvain. Before his death, Dr. Debaisieux had the gratification of seeing his son appointed to the chair which he himself had held for many years.

THE American Public Health Association will meet in San Francisco, September 13-17. The program will include the Relative Functions of Official and Non-Official Health Organizations; Western Health Problems; Narcotic Control; Food Poisoning; Organization for Child Hygiene; Mental Hygiene; Health Centers. These subjects and others will be distributed among the following ten sectional groups: General Sessions; Public Health Administration; Laboratory; Vital Statistics; Sociological; Sanitary Engineering; Industrial Hygiene; Food and Drugs; Personal Hygiene; Child Hygiene.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that Dr. F. F. Simpson, of Pittsburgh, recently spent several months in Europe with a view to interesting the medical profession of the world in the project of reorganizing on a uniform basis all international societies related to the various branches of medicine. It is proposed to create a federation of these societies and to establish an international medical press bureau which shall be charged with making known all important discoveries to the medical press of the world, thus assuring rapid diffusion of medical knowledge. A committee of ten, composed of two physicians from each of five countries, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy and the United States, has been named and will meet soon in Paris or London to set the new organization on foot.

WE learn from *Nature* that a congress of Philosophy to which members of the Société Française de Philosophie and the American Philosophical Association are sending delegates, is to take place at Oxford on September 24-27. Two of the subjects of discussion are likely to be of especial scientific interest: one a symposium on the principle of relativity, to be opened by Professor Eddington, and the other a discussion to be opened by Dr. Head on disorders of symbolic thinking due to local lesions

of the brain. The opening meeting of the congress will be presided over by Professor Bergson. Arrangements are under the direction of Mr. A. H. Smith, New College, Oxford.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GIFTS of \$150,000 each to Bowdoin and University of Maine, \$70,000 to Coes Northwood Academy at Durham, N. H., and \$10,000 to the Eastern Maine General Hospital are included in the will of Dr. Thomas Opham Coe.

SIR JESSE BOOT has given £50,000 to the new Nottingham University scheme—£30,000 for building and £20,000 for a chair of chemistry. A gift of £15,000 has been made to Liverpool University by Alderman Louis Samuel Cohen. A further gift of £8,000 has been received by the University of Cambridge from Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Molteno to meet the increased cost of labor and material in the building of the Molteno Institute of Parasitology.

DR. CHARLES HUBBARD JUDD, head of the department of education of the University of Chicago and director of the school of education, has been made chairman of the department of psychology to succeed Professor James R. Angell, who resigned to accept the presidency of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR M. PARDEE has resigned from the chair of chemistry at Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa., to become the head of the department and professor of chemistry at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S. D.

AT the University of Arizona, Mr. J. G. Brown has been promoted from an assistant professorship in biology in the college of arts and science to the position of professor of plant pathology in the college of agriculture and plant pathologist of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

DR. DWIGHT E. MINNICH, instructor in physiology and zoology at Syracuse University, has become instructor in animal biology at the University of Minnesota.

*The British Medical Journal* reports that professors of the Paris Faculty of Medicine have been placed in two classes according to their seniority, those in the first class receiving a salary of 25,000 francs and those in the second class a salary of 23,000 francs. By a recent ministerial decree Professors Richet, Pouchet, Hutinel, De Lapersonne, Gilbert, Roger, Nicolas, Ribemont-Dessaignes, Quénu, Prénant, Widai, Chauffard, and Weiss have been put in the first class, and Professors Delbet, Marfan, Hartmann, Bar, Marie, Broca, Teissier, Desgrès, Lejars Achard, Robin, Legueu, Letulle, Couvelaire, Carnot, Besançon, Vaquez, Dupré and Jeanseime in the second class.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### TRANSVERSE VIBRATIONS OF RODS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In reference to Professor Cady's paper on "The Theory of Longitudinal Vibrations in Rods having Internal Losses" in the *Physical Review* for February, I should like to say that we have made in the laboratory of Clark University during the last ten years a very great many measurements of transverse vibrations of rods of all sorts of materials and that we find that the theory of viscosity is by no means substantiated. Until Professor Cady's experimental results are published I shall therefore have to reserve my opinion as to the application of this theory to longitudinal vibrations.

I would say in justice to myself and my students that our results have been held back so long because we have attempted to apply the theory of elastic hysteresis to the subject and the difficulties in the solution of the Volterra integro-differential equations involved have been so great that we have not been able to finish the theoretical results. It looks at present as if that theory was not substantiated either. Accordingly, it will be necessary to invent a new theory or a combination of both. I have now decided to publish the experimental results without waiting for the theory and they may be expected to appear soon in the *Proceedings* of the National Academy of Sciences. The subject is

an extremely interesting one and of great importance for many reasons.

ARTHUR GORDON WEBSTER

CLARK UNIVERSITY, July 13, 1920

### THE EXPLORATION OF VENEZUELA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: With three companions, I have just returned from a collecting trip in western Venezuela, and I found there some conditions which will probably be of interest to others who may contemplate a scientific trip in the tropics.

At the present time in western Venezuela there is considerable activity in oil development, not only in exploration, but in the establishment of permanent camps and refineries. Two of these camps are located in country entirely different in character. Arrangements could be made by any one desiring to visit these camps to make them his headquarters, thus rendering accessible for study faunas and floras which the student could otherwise reach and study only at considerable trouble and expense.

One of these camps is about twenty miles from Maracaibo in a desert region. The flora and birds here would be of especial interest.

The other camp is located on the Rio Oro, a tributary of the Catatumbo, and is reached by launch from Encontrados, a town about ninety miles from the mouth of the Catatumbo, which town can be reached by steamer without change of boat from Maracaibo. This camp is in a well watered and heavily forested region, as I was told, but I did not have an opportunity to visit the camp myself.

The camp near Maracaibo belongs to the Caribbean Petroleum Company, with offices at Maracaibo. The other camp belongs to the Columbian Petroleum Company, and letters of inquiry relative thereto might be addressed to Mr. David Brullenbourg, Encontrados.

I was informed by several gentlemen connected with both petroleum companies that any one interested in the fauna and flora of the region would be welcome at these camps, and his expenses there would be reduced to the minimum. These camps afford an oppor-