

*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, Widal, 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.

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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-