

ADAM POLITZER, professor of otology at Vienna, has died at the age of eighty-six years.

Nature states that one of the first official acts of the new high commissioner of Palestine has been the establishment of a Department of Antiquities. An international board will advise the director on technical matters. Provision is made for an inspector, for a museum, and for the custody of the historical monuments. The museum starts with more than 100 cases of antiquities collected by the Palestine Exploration Fund and other bodies before the war. On August 9 the new British School of Archeology was formally opened at Jerusalem by Sir Herbert Samuel.

THE Pennsylvania State College has received from the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research a grant of \$5,000 for the current fiscal year in aid of the researches in animal nutrition which have been carried on for the past twenty years by the Institute of Animal Nutrition under the direction of Dr. H. P. Armsby.

THE autumn meeting of the British Institute of Metals will be held at Barrow-Furness on September 15 and 16, under the presidency of Sir George Goodwin.

IN the second week of September there is to be a gathering at the School of Anthropology at Paris of a number of persons interested in forming an International Anthropological Institute and in making it the center for the anthropologic sciences, including ethnology, eugenics, medical geography, comparative anatomy, etc.

THERE has been organized the Mexican Society of Biology which for the time being will hold its meetings at the headquarters of the National Academy of Medicine. The officers of the association are: *President*, Dr. D. Fernando Ocaranza; *Treasurer*, Dr. Eliseo Ramírez, and *Secretary*, Dr. Isaac Ocheterena. The society has ten charter members, practically all physicians. The address is Av. del Brasil, No. 33, Mexico.

THE chief executive officers and large stockholders of the General Chemical Company, the Solvay Process Company, the Sement-Solvay

Company, the Barrett Company and the National Aniline & Chemical Company, have approved a general plan for submission to the respective boards, for the consolidation of the five companies.

WE learn from *Nature* that at the council meeting of the National Association of Industrial Chemists, held at Sheffield on August 7, the secretary reported that a number of firms had given a definite undertaking to consult the officials of the association in all matters relating to chemists, their appointment, salaries, and conditions of employment. The salaries paid to members of the association were fairly satisfactory; in this connection a report has been issued giving a schedule of minimum salaries, and this would be circulated shortly. The secretary stated that the number of unemployed chemists was increasing rapidly, and there was every indication of a coming great slump in the engineering and allied industries in which their members were employed. It was more than ever imperative for industrial chemists to unite to preserve their interests. Mr. A. B. Searle (Sheffield) was unanimously elected president for the coming year, and Mr. J. W. Merchant appointed secretary. The appointment of an organizing secretary for propaganda work was authorized.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late William K. Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt University receives \$250,000.

By the will of the late Miss Annette P. Rogers, daughter of the first president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Radcliffe College receives \$175,000.

Two research fellowships of \$1,200 each have been established at Rutgers College by Dr. J. G. Lipman, dean of agriculture and director of the experiment station at that institution. The appointees to the fellowships will study problems relating to the place and functions of sulfur in the plant world.

DR. CALVIN C. APPLEWHITE, U. S. Public Health Service, has been detailed to establish

a school of public health and hygiene in the medical department of the University of Georgia, Augusta.

DR. ARTHUR S. HATHAWAY, since 1891 professor of mathematics at the Rose Polytechnic Institute, has retired from active service. He is succeeded by Dr. I. P. Sousley, of Pennsylvania State College.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK SLOCUM has returned to Wesleyan University as professor of astronomy and director of the Van Vleck Observatory.

MR. GUY R. MCDOLE, assistant soils chemist in the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, has accepted a position as associate professor of agronomy and soil technologist at the University of Idaho.

DR. ROBERT STEWART, who has for the past five years been associated with the late Dr. Cyril G. Hopkins at the University of Illinois as professor of soil fertility, has resigned his position to accept the deanship of the college of agriculture of the University of Nevada.

DR. ARTHUR T. EVANS has accepted the position as associate agronomist in South Dakota State College and Experiment Station. He has previously been professor of botany and dean at Huron College; and earlier engaged in corn disease investigations with the Cereal Office of the United States Department of Agriculture.

DR. WM. CONGER MORGAN has resigned his position as professor of chemistry at Reed College to become professor of chemistry at the Southern Branch of the University of California at Los Angeles.

C. LEE SHILLDAY, professor of anatomy and histology in the college of dentistry, University of Tennessee, has accepted the professorship of biology in the Pennsylvania College of Gettysburg, to succeed Dr. George Stahley, who has retired after thirty years' service.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BURT P. KIRKLAND, and Assistant Professor E. T. Clark, of the college of forestry and lumbering of the University of Washington, have been promoted, the former to a full professorship and the latter to an associate professorship.

DR. WILLIAM BOYD, professor of pathology in the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, has declined the offer of the chair of pathology at the medical school, Cairo, Egypt.

DR. FRIEDMANN, the value of whose turtle vaccine for tuberculosis is questioned, has been appointed extraordinary professor at the University of Berlin against the vote of the medical faculty.

DR. A. GOSSET, professor of external pathology of the Paris medical faculty, has been appointed to the chair of clinical surgery left vacant by the retirement of Professor Quénu, and Dr. Vaquez, professor of internal pathology, has been appointed to succeed Professor Robin in the chair of clinical therapeutics.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A BAND SPECTRUM FROM MERCURY VAPOR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The writer has recently observed that under certain conditions the discharge through mercury vapor gives a glow that is distinctly green. An examination of this glow shows the ordinary line spectrum of mercury together with a spectrum which is apparently continuous through nearly all of the visible spectrum, being most prominent in the green. So far as the writer has been able to learn there is no record of such a spectrum having been obtained from the discharge through mercury vapor.

Two conditions are necessary for obtaining this spectrum with any considerable brightness. First the vapor through which the discharge takes place must be passing from a hotter to a colder region, as from the mercury arc or from the mercury heated by a flame to a condensing chamber, that is, through vapor that is condensing.

Secondly the voltage must be kept as low as possible and yet have a discharge. As the voltage is raised the ordinary line spectrum becomes more prominent and the continuous spectrum less so. The discharge from a Wimhurst machine or from a transformer shows the glow somewhat better than that from an induction coil. Putting condensers in parallel