

Caze prize to Robert de Forerand, for his work in inorganic chemistry.

Mineralogy and Geology.—The Fontannes prize to Olivier Couffon, for his work entitled "Le Callovien du Chalet (Commune de Montreuil-Bellay)"; the Joseph Labbé prize to Albert Bordeaux, for his applications of geology to the solution of mining problems. The Victor Raulin prize is postponed until 1921.

Botany.—The Desmazieres prize to André Maublanc, for his work in mycology and plant diseases; honorable mention to Pierre Sée, for his book on the diseases of paper; the De Coincy prize to Lucien Hauman-Merck, for the whole of his botanical work. The Montagne prize is not awarded.

Anatomy and Zoology.—The Cuvier prize to Alphonse Malaquin, for the whole of his work in zoology; the Savigny prize to F. Le Cerf, for his "Revision des *Ægeriides algériens*"; the Jean Thore prize to A. Cros, for his biological studies of the Coleoptera of northern Africa.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON'S PHYSIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

At its meeting in December the senate of the University of London decided that the physiological laboratory must be closed at the end of July next unless assurance of adequate support is received from the London County Council or other sources. *The British Medical Journal* writes:

The laboratory was established under the direction of Professor A. D. Waller, F.R.S., in 1902, at the headquarters of the university in the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, the equipment being provided out of a fund of £4,000 provided from private sources. It has since been maintained partly out of university funds and partly by private assistance, with the help, during the last nine years, of an annual grant of £500 from the London County Council. This grant is now to be withdrawn, and the university has no funds out of which to make up the deficit. In deciding to close the laboratory, the senate appears to be influenced also by the need of finding additional room in its present quarters for general university purposes; this is indicated by a further resolution stating "that should adequate support for the transference and maintenance of the physiological laboratory be forthcoming, the laboratory be continued during the pleasure of the senate elsewhere than in its present quarters, which shall be vacated not later than the end of July, 1921." Physiologists will

agree with Sir E. Sharpey Schafer that the closure of the laboratory would be a serious misfortune. "It is," he says, in a letter to the *Times*, "unique from the fact that, being unattached to any particular medical school or college, it has been untrammelled by the necessity of providing elementary teaching in physiology, and has been able to devote all its energies to research. The success it has obtained in this under the able guidance of the director, Professor A. D. Waller, is universally acknowledged. The originality of Professor Waller's methods and the brilliant results which have been obtained from their application—especially in the difficult subject of electrophysiology—are well known. It would be a real calamity if a sudden stop were put to these activities." It is suggested that the reason why the London County Council has withdrawn its contribution at this time is the expectation that it will shortly have to contribute a large sum toward the cost of building new university headquarters. "It would seem," Sir E. Sharpey Schafer concludes, "a pity to allow an active laboratory to be abolished in order to save £500 a year towards the cost of problematical buildings." "Problematical," perhaps, is not quite the right word, because, we presume, something will have to be done for the university, but no building can be undertaken for some considerable time to come. We can only express the hope that, should the London County Council remain obdurate, public-spirited benefactors, recognizing the importance of the university having at least one research laboratory, will come to the rescue. We may, at any rate, express the expectation that means will be found to carry on the laboratory until the question of the new site for the university is settled.

POPULAR LECTURES ON SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

With the opening to the public of the new Museum of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, in 1916, one of the activities of the educational policy put into effect by Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, the director of the museum, was courses of popular lectures on scientific subjects of general interest. These courses began in the fall of 1916 and have been continued each year since, without interruption except during the summer months. The lectures are given at three o'clock each