

THE spring meeting of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers will be held in Chicago at the Congress Hotel, from May 23 to 26. Sessions are planned by the professional sections on aeronautics, fuels, management, material handling, machine shop, power, forest products and railroads.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that investigations made by the Rockefeller Foundation indicate that the countries of central Europe, with the possible exception of Austria, suffer from a shortage of physicians. Thus, in Poland less than 2,000 physicians are said to be available to care for the 25,000,000 inhabitants, and in Serbia it is stated there are less than 300 physicians outside of the army medical officers. In its efforts to rehabilitate the medical schools of central Europe, the Rockefeller Foundation has decided to aid in the establishment of a high grade medical school at Belgrade.

A SPECIAL committee from the Petrograd Academy of Science has proposed a plan to the academy, whereby a closer contact between the scientific men of Russia and Western Europe may be forwarded.

ON December 31 the Zoological Society at Hamburg decided to close the Zoological Gardens because the city can not afford to aid in maintenance.

MRS. EUGENE SILLIMAN BRISTOL has given \$1,000 to the proposed Silliman fund, the income of which will be applied to the maintenance of the *American Journal of Science*.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. WALLACE W. ATWOOD, lately professor of physiography at Harvard University, was inaugurated as president of Clark University, on February 1.

DR. W. B. CANNON, professor of physiology, and Dr. Otto Folin, professor of biological chemistry, at Harvard University, were last autumn, offered research positions in the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, with all possible facilities

for the conduct of research work and with salaries approximately twice those given by the university. They have, however, decided to remain at Harvard.

PROFESSOR F. C. NEWCOMBE, of the department of botany of Michigan University, has been granted leave for the second semester of the current year. His mail address will be Palo Alto, Calif. During Professor Newcombe's absence Professor H. H. Bartlett will be administrative head of the department.

DR. EARNEST ALBERT HOOTON has been appointed assistant professor of anthropology at the Harvard Medical School, and Dr. William Lorenzo Moss, assistant professor of preventive medicine and hygiene.

DR. G. W. A. LUCKEY, formerly dean of the school of education of the University of Nebraska, has been appointed specialist in foreign education in the U. S. Bureau of Education, Washington.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THRICE TOLD TALES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Referring to the letter of Professor Wood,<sup>1</sup> I, also, have a story about the Lick Observatory and to enable Professor Wood to have a whack at it I hasten to offer it to the public. In the summer of 1891 I was the guest of the then director of the observatory, Professor E. S. Holden, for a week or ten days while making a series of gravity measurements and I was greatly interested in the "public nights," in the establishment and maintenance of which the institution has done a most admirable piece of work.

On one of these occasions I was watching the long line of visitors formed near the big refractor, each awaiting his turn for a look through that wonderful instrument. The object to which it was directed at that time was a star cluster and, as every one knows, when a cluster is viewed through a telescope the number of stars seen is increased enormously and those visible to the naked eye are greatly en-

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, January 14, 1921.