

now is hoped to eliminate waste through scientific research.

Under the terms of the agreement Leland Stanford will appoint three scientific men, with authority to determine policies and problems to be studied. There also will be an advisory committee of men of national prominence, representing agriculturists, consumers, business men and other groups. The university will appoint seven members of this body to serve with the president of the university and the president of Carnegie Corporation, *ex officio*, for a term of three years.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Bruce gold medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded for the year 1921 to M. Henri Alexandre Deslandres, director of the Astrophysical Observatory of Meudon, France, for his "distinguished services to astronomy."

PROFESSOR JULES BORDET, to whom the Nobel prize in medicine was recently awarded, has been elected a member of the senate of Belgium from the Hainaut district.

WE learn from *Nature* that at a meeting of the award committee, consisting of the presidents of the principal British engineering institutions, the first triennial award of the Kelvin gold medal was made to Dr. W. C. Unwin, who was, in the opinion of the committee, the most worthy to receive this recognition of pre-eminence in the branches of engineering with which Lord Kelvin's scientific work and researches were closely identified. The Kelvin gold medal was established in 1914 as part of a memorial to the late Lord Kelvin and in association with the window placed in Westminster Abbey in his memory by British and American engineers.

GEORGE C. WHIPPLE, professor of sanitary engineering in the Harvard Engineering School, has been elected a fellow in the Royal Institute of Public Health.

THE Medical Society of the City and County of Denver has appointed a committee to plan a meeting in appreciation of Dr. Hubert Work,

Pueblo, the president-elect of the American Medical Association.

DR. J. M. ALDRICH, of the U. S. National Museum, was elected president of the Entomological Society of America at the Chicago meeting.

PROFESSOR GEORGE A. DEAN, of the Kansas State Agricultural College, was elected president of the American Association of Economic Entomologists at its recent annual meeting in Chicago.

DR. W. R. G. ATKINS, of Trinity College, Dublin, has been appointed head of the department of general physiology at the Plymouth Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences that Mr. W. F. Wallis, of the department of terrestrial magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, left Washington on January 9 for Huancayo, Peru, where he will succeed Dr. Harry M. W. Edmonds as magnetician-in-charge of the Huancayo Magnetic Observatory upon the conclusion of the latter's two-year assignment. Dr. Edmonds will return about April *via* San Francisco for duty at Washington.

DR. H. L. SHANTZ has been appointed plant physiologist in charge of plant physiological and fermentation investigations in the Bureau of Plant Industry. Dr. Shantz returned in September from a year's trip through Africa for the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction.

MR. A. D. WILSON, who has been director of agricultural work for the University of Minnesota for the past twelve years and superintendent of Farmers' Institutes for the State of Minnesota for the past fourteen years, has resigned these positions to take up farming in northern Minnesota, the resignation being effective on June 30.

MR. W. H. KENETY, who has been assistant professor of forestry in the University of Minnesota and superintendent of the Forest Experiment Station at Cloquet for the past eight years, has resigned to take a position

with a commercial wood products utilization company.

DR. EDWARD A. SPITZKA assumed his new work in the neuro-psychiatric section, medical division, War Risk Insurance Bureau, Washington, D. C., on March 1.

DR. HORACE W. FRINK, assistant professor of neurology at the Cornell Medical College, has sailed to work in psycho-analysis with Professor Freud at Vienna.

PROFESSOR SELSKAR M. GUNN, formerly associate professor of public health at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who has served for three years as associate director of the Commission for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in France, has left for Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he is to act as adviser in Public Health to the Ministry of Public Health. This appointment is in connection with the program of cooperation between the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ministry of Public Health.

A MEMORIAL lecture on the life and work of the late Sir William Abney will be delivered before the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain by Mr. Chapman Jones.

As a tribute to the services and character of the late General William C. Gorgas, the Senate has ordered that the remarks made at the memorial services in his honor, held at Washington, D. C., January 16, be printed.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE sum of \$1,000,000 has been given to the new School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Rochester, by Mrs. Gertrude Strong Achilles and Mrs. Helen Strong Carter, daughters of Henry A. Strong, who died in Rochester in 1919. The money will be used toward the erection of a clinical hospital as a memorial to the father and mother of the donors.

THE *Bulletin* of the American Mathematical Society announces that in the department of mathematics at the University of Illinois, As-

sociate Professor R. D. Carmichael has been promoted to a full professorship; Dr. C. F. Green, Dr. L. L. Steimley, and Dr. B. Margaret Turner have been appointed instructors; Professor E. R. Smith, on leave of absence from Pennsylvania State College, has been appointed associate.

DR. RHODA ERDMANN, formerly lecturer at Yale University, has been appointed lecturer on experimental cytology in the University of Berlin.

At the University of Cambridge Dr. W. L. H. Duckworth, Jesus College, has been appointed to the newly created readership of anatomy, Mr. F. A. Potts, Trinity Hall, demonstrator of comparative anatomy, V. C. Pennell, Pembroke College, an additional junior demonstrator in anatomy and Dr. C. S. Myers, Gonville and Caius College, has been appointed reader in experimental psychology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

HUMAN NATURE AS A REPEATING FACTOR: THAT THRICE TOLD TALE

THE following comments on Professor Wood's "Thrice Told Tale," *SCIENCE*, January 14, 1921, are based upon my long experience in showing celestial objects through a great telescope to tens of thousands of Saturday-night visitors, and in explaining photographs of star clusters, the Milky Way, spiral nebulae, etc., to thousands of others. Perhaps these comments will be of interest to the psychologists.

I fear that Professor Wood is unduly concerned about the victimization of present-day expositors of the universe, including himself. Contrary to his implication that the response to his (Wood's) explanation of the universe, made by the chance visitor to his ingenious telescope, could never be made again, I would say that the incident in all its essentials has certainly happened many times, and it will doubtless occur many times in the future, for human nature is a first-class repeating factor.

When visitors to an observatory get a sudden appreciation of the bigness of our sun and other stars, of the number of suns in our stellar system, of the possible number of