

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