

chronological order. In addition to the texts, there will be considerable illustrative material touching on hospitalization and treatment, the use of baths, venesection, new remedies, pest banners, broadsides and medals, also Saint Roch and Saint Sebastian, and various aspects of the plague and syphilis dealt with in the graphic arts. General texts illustrating the Greek, Byzantine, Mohammedan and medieval practise in fevers will occupy half of the space allotted. The other half will contain tracts on the plague and syphilis, original descriptions, new diseases and primary treatises on the doctrine of contagium vivum. A descriptive catalogue will be ready for distribution at the time of the annual session.

THE London County Council according to the *British Medical Journal* has adopted the recommendations of the committee appointed by the Illuminating Engineering Society to inquire into eyestrain in cinematograph halls. These recommendations will be put into force at once so far as new halls are concerned, and will be applied to existing halls as opportunity offers. The chief recommendation sets out the limit of the vertical angle of view. The committee believes that ocular discomfort arises mainly from the abnormal angle at which very often the eyes of spectators are directed upwards, and that conditions suitable for the eyes would be secured if a moderate value for the angle of elevation were adopted. It is therefore proposed that the angle of elevation subtended at the eye of any person seated in the front row by the length of the vertical line dropped from the center of the top edge of the picture to the horizontal plane passing through the observer's eye shall not exceed 35 degrees. In some of the London halls this condition is complied with, and in others it is approached, but in others again the angle in question exceeds 60 degrees.

Nature states that the members of Mr. L. H. Dudley Buxton's expedition have now returned from a stay of some weeks in the Island of Malta. The object of the expedition was to collect material for a study of the

physical anthropology of this island. About 1,000 adults, men and women, were measured. The fine series of ancient bones which Professor Zammit excavated in the Hypogæum at Hal-Safieni and elsewhere was collected together and measured. A long series of skeletal remains from a modern ossuary were also examined. A special visit, lasting for two days, was paid to Gozo by Mrs. Jenkinson and Miss Moss to work at the physical anthropology of that island. The expedition has collected an immense mass of valuable material, which will take some time to arrange and digest. As soon as this work is sufficiently far advanced Mr. Buxton hopes to submit a preliminary account of the results of the expedition to the Royal Anthropological Institute.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of Edmund Cogswell Converse, who died on April 4 in Pasadena, California, Amherst College receives a bequest of about \$250,000. Of this amount \$200,000 will be used for the upkeep and development of the Converse library, for the building of which Mr. Converse donated \$250,000 in 1916, the building to be a memorial to his brother, James B. Converse. The remaining \$50,000 of the bequest will be used to establish an Edmund Cogswell Converse scholarship fund.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes that "much disappointment is being expressed in university circles in Toronto at the failure of the Ontario government to take action during the present session of the legislature on the report of their own appointed special commissions which has been inquiring into the status of the universities of the province. As the University of Toronto expected \$1,000,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation there will be for the present no available funds for further expansion as it will be doubtful if even this sum will be forthcoming owing to the failure of the government to come to the assistance of the university."

THE trustees of the estate of the late John W. Sterling, to whom the residue of the estate was left in the interest of Yale University, have established two additional Sterling professorships at Yale; one of these is to be assigned for the present to mathematics, one to physiological chemistry. Professor Ernest W. Brown, of the department of mathematics, has been assigned to one of these professorships, and Professor Lafayette B. Mendel, professor of physiological chemistry has been assigned to the other. Four Sterling professorships have now been established, the other two being the new professorship of education recently filled by the appointment of Frank E. Spaulding, formerly superintendent of public schools in Cleveland, Ohio, and the new professorship of chemistry recently filled by the appointment of Professor John Johnston, formerly secretary of the National Research Council. Each of these professorships has an endowment of about \$225,000. After meeting the salary of the professor, "the university shall have the right to use any surplus income of these funds in advancing the work of the said professorship through the appointment of assistants, aid in publication, opportunity for study or investigation in New Haven or elsewhere, or in other ways."

PROFESSOR PAUL H. M.-P. Brinton, head of the department of chemistry at the University of Arizona, has accepted appointment as professor of analytical chemistry in the school of chemistry at the University of Minnesota.

PROFESSOR HALE HOUSTON, head of the department of civil engineering at Clemson College, S. C., has been elected associate professor of engineering at Washington and Lee University, the appointment being effective on September 1.

At Stanford University associate professors have been promoted to be professors as follows: William A. Manning in applied mathematics; Leroy Abrams in botany; Jesse B. Sears in education; Thomas Addis in medicine. Assistant professors to be associate

professors: Edwin W. Schultz and William L. Holman in bacteriology; William M. Proctor in education; Charles N. Cross in mechanical engineering; Frank W. Weymouth in physiology; John E. Coover in psychology. Assistant clinical professor to be assistant professor: Henry G. Mehrtens, in medicine. Instructors to be assistant professors: Elizabeth L. Buckingham, and Edith R. Mirrielees in English; Edward B. Towne in surgery; James P. Baumberger in physiology; Gordon F. Ferris in entomology (zoology).

PROFESSOR BRAUS, of Heidelberg, has been proposed as the successor to Professor O. Hertwig, of Berlin, who has sent in his resignation.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

GENETICS OF THE "CHINCHILLA" RABBIT

A CONSIDERABLE interest exists in the raising of rabbits for fur, stimulated no doubt by the extensive use and high price of fur garments in recent years, and by the fact that wild fur-bearing animals are on the decrease. Rabbit fur has long been used as a substitute for other furs and sold misbranded but is coming to be used under its own name and on its own merits. One impetus to such use comes from the development chiefly in France of breeds whose fur is attractive in its natural colors. Among such breeds are the chocolate or "Havana," the French silver of "champagne d'argent," and the "Chinchilla." This last is an especially pleasing color variety of a pearl gray color. The coat is similar to that of a wild gray rabbit except that (1) it contains no yellow whatever, the yellow ticking of gray rabbit fur being replaced with white, and (2) the black portions of the gray fur are toned down to a slaty blue. Both these differences appear to follow from a single genetic change, a mutation in the color factor less extreme than that which has occurred in the white or albino variety, yet affecting the same genetic factor or "gene."

If a chinchilla rabbit is crossed with any of the common color varieties other than white, the chinchilla character behaves as a recessive.