State Medical Boards of the United States, and formerly dean of the Long Island College Hospital; treasurer, Dr. George W. Kosmak, attending surgeon of the Lying-In Hospital, and formerly secretary of the American Association of Obstetricians.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A DORMITORY for foreign students at Columbia University and other schools in New York has been made possible through a gift promised to members of the Cosmopolitan Club, an organization of students in Columbia and New York University. Plans for the dormitory provide for a building of 500 rooms to be erected at a cost approximating $1,000,000, on Riverside Drive opposite Grant's tomb. The newspapers report that the donor is John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

DR. F. S. HARRIS, director and agronomist of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and professor of agronomy at the Utah Agricultural College, has resigned to become president of the Brigham Young University, at Provo, Utah, where he succeeds Dr. George H. Brimhall, who has been made president emeritus. Professor Wm. Peterson, station geologist and professor of geology in the college, has been appointed to succeed Dr. Harris as director of the station.

DR. NATHAN FASTEN, who went to the Oregon Agricultural College last September from the University of Washington, has been promoted to the headship of the department of zoology.

DR. JOHN W. M. BUNKER, who has been for several years at the head of the bacteriological department of the Digestive Ferments Company of Detroit, has been elected assistant professor of biochemistry and physiology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

CONCERNING RECENT AURORAS, MAY 13 AND MAY 14, 1921

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: On the evening of May 13, 1921, there occurred a great aurora, not visible here on account of clouds, but again on the evening of May 14 there was another great display visible here in spite of the half moon and a low-lying fog which tended to spoil the visibility. As in other great auroras, the great bundles of streamers appeared to converge toward the zenith from the south as well as from the north, east and west. The sky at times was virtually covered with auroral light. The outburst of May 13 caused great disturbance to telegraph and telephone wire transmission and must have been of unusual magnitude. All the effects noted in the aurora of May 14 a day later conformed to the perspective ideas, pointed out in my paper, "Inferences concerning auroras," read at the Boston meeting of the National Academy of Sciences on November 14, 1916, and published in its *Proceedings*, Vol. 3, pp. 1–7, January, 1917.

It is rarely that one great aurora follows so closely on the heels of another and at an interval so short as a day. In fact I have no record or recollection of such a happening in my time of observation, which now extends over fifty years, more or less. Hence the conditions lead to the inquiry whether any unusual condition existed in this instance.

An examination of the solar surface appears to provide, or at least suggest, a possible explanation, and at the same time throw light on the nature of the relation of the aurora to the solar disturbances.

On May 15 there were to be seen on the solar surface two large spot areas, separated by an interval of about one-fourteenth of the diameter of the sun, the one following the other as the sun revolved. These two spot areas, quite distinct from each other, were nearly round, the first a single spot, the second a compact group with a much disturbed area adjacent. They were located near the center of the solar disc.

As the solar revolution takes place in nearly 26 days, the interval between the spots appears to be approximately one day of the surface movement.

This means that in about one day the sec-