

of exceptional creative ability in any field of human interest and activity. Nominations for the scholarship may be made to the registrar of the university by superintendents or principals of schools, by teachers, or by any one else.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

YALE UNIVERSITY has received gifts and pledges for the \$2,000,000 additional endowment required to meet the terms of the conditional offer of \$3,000,000 made at commencement in 1920 by "an anonymous friend of the university." No definite statement has been made of the manner in which the endowment will be used, but it is said that the Sterling bequest of \$18,000,000 and the Harkness gift of about \$6,000,000 had bestowed upon the university building facilities without provision for professorships, for which additional endowment is urgently needed.

APPRAISAL of the estate of the late William F. Armstrong, of New York, shows that he left property valued at \$1,822,192. Public bequests exceeding \$1,000,000, include a bequest of \$100,000 and the residuary estate, amounting to \$726,786, to Wesleyan University.

DR. GEORGE W. PIERCE has been appointed as Rumford professor of physics at Harvard University, to succeed Dr. Edwin H. Hall, who has retired from active teaching, and Dr. Theodore Lyman has been appointed Hollis professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, the chair successively held by the late Benjamin Peirce and Wallace C. Sabine.

ADDITIONS have been made to the senior staff in chemistry at the University of Illinois as follows: Drs. H. A. Neville, and C. D. Hurd, of Princeton; Dr. Edith H. Nason, of Yale; and Dr. T. E. Phipps, of California, in the division of inorganic chemistry; Dr. B. L. Souther, of Harvard, in the division of organic chemistry; Dr. G. F. Smith, of the University of Michigan, in the division of analytical chemistry; Dr. E. K. Carver, of Harvard, in the division of physical chem-

istry; Dr. M. J. Bradley, of Illinois, in the division of industrial chemistry, and Dr. R. E. Greenfield, of Illinois, in the division of sanitary chemistry and water analysis.

JULIAN D. CORRINGTON has resigned the position of curator in the department of zoology of Cornell University, to accept the appointment of associate professor of biology in the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

GRAND AURORA OF SEPTEMBER 1-2, 1921 (AT SILVER LAKE, N. H., LAT. 43.9° N.)

AN unusual aurora was seen at Silver Lake, N. H. (lat. 43.9° N.), on the night of September 1-2, 1921. Auroral glow was first noted at about 8 P.M. (75th mer. time). At 9 it was a bright arch with some streamers, and at 9:30 stretched from about NW. to NE., was double and locally knotty, and from time to time showed some motion when faint streamers reached up to a height of 30° above or down to the horizon under the general arch. Towards 10 the lights seemed to be getting fainter. At 2 A.M. I was awakened to see the sky filled with enormous flashing curtains. The whole family turned out onto the lake. No lights were needed and the pulsations were sufficient to be readily apparent in the house without looking at the sky. Viewed from the calm, "streaming" lake the sky was magnificent. Great folds of perhaps a dozen whitish curtains covered the sky except for a segment about 15° high in the south. Here and there a reddish tinge showed at the base of brighter folds. Waves of light rapidly traversed the sky upwards to the magnetic zenith, where some of the filmy curtains met in solid light traversed with beautiful curved lines. The stars, which were brilliant, attracted the attention of the small children nearly as much as did the sheets of light that "winkled." The youngest, 15 months old, gazed steadily for several minutes at the bright flickerings in the NW. at 2:30. The display slowly faded, but at 2:45 there were still some lights in the zenith and to about 30° south of it. The aurora, flashing all the time

continued bright at least in the NW. till 3:45 A.M., and probably later till the dawn blotted it out. Auroral pencils and sharp streamers being notably absent there was nothing to detract from the splendor of the great curtains.

On the following two nights there may have been auroras behind the clouds. On that of the 4th a moderate display with some pretty streamer action at about 3 A.M. was visible all night from Mt. Washington. The following two nights were cloudy. Then another display occurred. At 7:42 P.M. on the 7th a smooth auroral arch covered most of the sky up to the pole-star (45°) at Carter Notch, but by 7:57 there was but a low arch. The maximum with some streamers occurred apparently at about 10:30 P.M. The aurora was visible at other times throughout the night. On the evening of the 8th a faint arch broken by streamers in the NNW. was visible; and on the following evening there seemed to be a faint arch.

CHARLES F. BROOKS

SILVER LAKE, N. H.

THE COCCIDÆ OF CEYLON

ENTOMOLOGISTS are indebted to Mr. E. E. Green for by far the most ambitiously conceived and most admirably executed contribution to the knowledge of the Coccidæ or scale insects that has ever been made—the "Coccidæ of Ceylon." This work, which is still incomplete, has been issued in parts and the final part would have appeared long ago but for the interference of the war. I am informed by Mr. Green that as matters now stand the long-hoped-for appearance of this final volume seems indefinitely postponed because of the enormously increased costs of printing. The only hope that he may be able to proceed with its publication at all lies in the possibility of obtaining adequate assurance that the entire issue can be sold.

It may at first appear that a work which deals with but a limited aspect of the fauna of a comparatively remote island such as Ceylon can have but little interest for Americans. Yet such is decidedly not the case with this

work. Many of the species included are practically cosmopolitan and the ever present possibility of the spread of others through the agencies of commerce makes desirable any information that can be obtained concerning them. The Coccidæ of Ceylon is indispensable to any one who is at all seriously interested in the scale insects. Its completion is a matter in which all students of the Coccidæ should take a personal interest.

The price of the final part has been set at 3 pounds, which is the actual cost of publication, and of the entire series of five parts at 8 pounds. To those who are familiar with the work the price will not seem in the slightest degree excessive. Mr. Green says:

If I could get definite promises of support from a considerable number of prospective purchasers, I should feel justified in going ahead at once.

It is sincerely to be hoped that these promises may be forthcoming. Correspondence should be addressed to Mr. E. E. Green, Way's End, Camberley, Surrey, England.

G. F. FERRIS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIF.

A METHOD OF PROTECTING MICROSCOPIC SECTIONS FROM MECHANICAL INJURY

THOSE who have to deal with classes using chiefly microscopic slides, especially of embryos, will appreciate the fact that most of the damage to sections comes not from breaking of the slide but as the result of pressure on the cover glass. Such damage would not be possible but for the fact that most of the balsam remains fluid, even after many years, and consequently offers no firm support to delicate structures. If only some firm transparent substance could be found in which the sections might be imbedded the defect resulting from the fluid nature of the balsam might be counteracted and the tissues kept in perfect condition for successive classes.

Celloidin sections fulfill most if not all of the mechanical requirements, but are unsuitable because of the great amount of time required for cutting and mounting serially. However, these considerations led to the development of the following process which combines all of the advantages of the paraffine