

cal College, London, by Mr. W. P. Dreaper, on October 20. The subject was "Chemical Industry a Branch of Science."

THE death is announced of Dr. Albert Sidney Leyton, professor of pathology at the University of Leeds, Great Shelford, Cambridge, aged fifty-two years. His death is said to be directly due to his war service. He was a major and served as bacteriological consultant to the Northern Command, and it was during his investigations of trench fever that he developed the malady from which he died.

THE British Association has marked its appreciation of the plan for establishing the Brent Valley Bird Sanctuary as a permanent nature reserve in memory of Gilbert White by making a contribution through the Selborne Society towards the upkeep and endowment fund.

To mark the recent centenary of James Watt, the Institution of Shipbuilders and Engineers has founded two new chairs in Glasgow University—a James Watt Chair of Electrical Engineering, and a James Watt Chair of the Theory and Practise of Heat.

PROFESSOR EDWARD HJELT, professor of organic chemistry in the University of Helsingfors and at one time Finnish ambassador at Berlin, died on July 2 at the age of sixty-six years.

It is announced that the annual meeting for 1922 of the British Medical Association will be held at Glasgow on July 21-29.

WE learn from the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* that the appointment of the permanent chief of the Bureau of Chemistry has been delayed because of the impossibility of finding a properly qualified chemist who is willing to take the position at the \$5,000 salary attached to it. As a result of this situation, an increase in appropriation to \$7,500 will be asked, but under present conditions no congressional action is likely before the middle of next year.

THE Knud Rasmussen expedition left Godthaab, on the southwest coast of Greenland,

on September 7. The London *Times* states that the motor schooner *Sea King* during August had been to Thule (northwest Greenland) and brought back the Eskimo members of the expedition, four men and three women, as well as 72 dogs, sledges and furs which excel anything previously known. Part of the clothing sent from Denmark and lost in the shipwreck of the *Bele* has been replaced, and the expedition starts with as good an outfit as possible. In regard to *personnel*, the expedition unfortunately is less lucky. First Peter Freuchen's Eskimo wife Navarana, who was going to follow her husband, died at Upernivik on August 3, and during their southward journey the Cape York Eskimos caught cold which developed into pneumonia. After their arrival at Godthaab they were taken to hospital, where one, the huntsman Iggianguak, who had taken part in some of the previous Thule expeditions, died. The others had so far recovered that the doctor permitted them to rejoin the expedition. The *Sea King* will first go to the coast of Labrador, where M. Lindow, one of the Greenland trade inspectors, will carry on scientific investigations. It will then proceed with Rasmussen's party to Lyon inlet, in the Melville Peninsula. Captain Pedersen will afterwards take the vessel to St. John's, Newfoundland, from which the next report will be sent. The object of the expedition is to explore and map the archipelago between Greenland and the American continent, and also to investigate the migrations of the Eskimo, their folk-lore, and cognate subjects.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late Jonathan M. Parmenter, of Wayland, Mass., a trust fund of over \$250,000 is left to Harvard College for the establishment of scholarships.

DR. JOHN LEE COULTER has been elected president of the North Dakota Agricultural College. He takes the place occupied by Dr. E. F. Ladd, who was elected to the United States Senate last March.

DR. K. G. MATHESON, president of the Georgia School of Technology since 1906, has resigned to become president of Drexel Institute. Dr. Matheson will go to Drexel next spring, probably April 1. Until then the institute will continue to be directed by the administrative board, which took charge upon the recent retirement of Dr. Hollis Godfrey.

DR. FRANKLIN STEWART HARRIS was installed as president of Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah, on October 17. Dr. Harris, who was formerly director of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, succeeds President George H. Brimhall, who becomes president emeritus.

DR. FRANK PIERREPOINT GRAVES, formerly head of the school of education of the University of Pennsylvania, who succeeds Dr. John H. Finley as commissioner of education of New York State, and president of the University of the State of New York, was inducted into office on October 20.

DR. HARRY W. CRANE, assistant professor of psychology at Ohio State University, has been called to an associate professorship in psychology at the University of North Carolina. He will also act as psychiatrist to the State Board of Public Welfare.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF AMERICAN LANGUAGES NORTH OF MEXICO

It is clear that the orthodox "Powell" classification of American languages, useful as it has proved itself to be, needs to be superseded by a more inclusive grouping based on an intensive comparative study of morphological features and lexical elements. The recognition of 50 to 60 genetically independent "stocks" north of Mexico alone is tantamount to a historical absurdity. Many serious difficulties lie in the way of the task of reduction, among which may be mentioned the fact that our knowledge of many, indeed of most, American languages is still sadly fragmentary; that frequent allowance must be made for linguistic borrowing and for the

convergent development of features that are only descriptively, not historically, comparable; and that our persistently, and rather fruitlessly, "psychological" approach to the study of American languages has tended to dull our sense of underlying drift, of basic linguistic forms, and of lines of historical reconstruction. Any genetic reconstruction that can be offered now is necessarily but an exceedingly rough approximation to the truth at best. It is certain to require the most serious revision as our study progresses. Nevertheless I consider a tentative scheme as possessed of real value. It should act as a stimulus to more profound investigations and as a first attempt to shape the historical problem. On the basis of both morphological and, in part, lexical evidence, the following six great groups, presumably genetic, may be recognized:

- I. Eskimo-Aleut
- II. Algonkin-Wakashan { Algonkin-Wiyot-Yurok
Kootenay
Wakashan-Salish
- III. Na-dene (Haida; Tlingit-Athabaskan)
- IV. Penutian { Californian Penutian
Oregon Penutian
Tsimshian
- V. Hokan-Siouan { Yuki
Hokan
Coahuiltecan group
Keres
Tunica group
Siouan-Yuchi-Muskogian
Iroquois-Caddoan
- VI. Aztec-Tanoan { Uto-Aztekan
Tanoan-Kiowa

This leaves the Wailatpuan-Lutuami-Sahaptin group, Zuñi, and Beothuk as yet unplaced. The lines of cleavage seem greatest between IV. and V., and between III., on the one hand, and I. and II., on the other. Group V is probably the nearest to the generalized "typical American" type that is visualized by linguistic students at large.

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