

MISS EUNICE ROCKWOOD OBERLY, librarian of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture since 1908, whose knowledge of the organization and relations of phytopathological literature was probably unique, died suddenly at her home in Washington on the morning of November 5.

JOHN AUGUSTINE ZAHM died in Munich, Bavaria, of pneumonia, on November 11. Dr. Zahm was born in Ohio and graduated in 1871 from Notre Dame, with which university he was connected for many years as head of its scientific department, as curator of its museum, and then as president of the board of trustees. He was the author of numerous books concerned largely with the relations of science to religion.

DR. EMIL A. BUDDE, the German electrical engineer, died recently at the age of eighty. He was president of the International Electrochemical Commission, succeeding Dr. Elihu Thomson.

THE president and council of the Royal Society, London, announce that, in view of the economic condition of the country, the anniversary dinner of the society will not be held this year.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

SIR EDWARD ALLEN BROTHERTON, Bt., M.P., has given £20,000 to the University of Leeds for the development of bacterial study and research, more particularly in the interests of public health.

A VERDICT of \$25,000 damages has been rendered against Cornell University in the action brought by Louise Hamburger '20. In making his charge to the jury, Justice Kellogg said that the verdict to be given rested upon one point only, as to whether the university was negligent in employing a small boy in the chemistry stock-room. A motion for retrial has been made.

R. S. LOWE, of the Nitrate Division of the Ordnance Department of the Army, has been appointed dean of the department of chemical engineering of the University of Cincinnati.

C. R. ALDEN, formerly dean of the school of engineering, Institute of Technology,

Detroit, has accepted an appointment as dean of the college of engineering, Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio.

AMONG changes in the medical faculty at Yale are: Dr. Francis G. Blake appointed John Slate Ely professor of medicine; Dr. Edwards Albert Park, professor of pediatrics; Dr. Arthur M. Morse, professor and head of the department of obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. John T. Peters, Jr., associate professor of medicine and Dr. Albert T. Shoal, associate professor of pediatrics. Dr. Samuel C. Hardey, associate professor of surgery, has been placed in charge of the surgical department of the school.

DR. LANSING S. WELLS, until recently a research chemist with the Barrett Company, Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa., has accepted an appointment as assistant professor of organic and physical chemistry, Montana State College, Bozeman.

PROFESSOR H. C. PLUMMER, F.R.S., has been appointed professor of mathematics of the Ordnance College, Woolwich, England.

AT the opening of the winter session of St. Andrews University, Scotland, the newly appointed professor of chemistry, Dr. Robert Robinson, F.R.S., and the newly appointed professor of bacteriology, Dr. William J. Tullock, were inducted into their respective offices.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE LATITUDE AND VERTEBRÆ

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: IN SCIENCE for December 26, 1919, is a suggestive note by Mr. A. G. Huntsman on the problem of "Latitude and Vertebræ" among fishes, a problem of reality and importance which I have thus had mostly to myself, and to which I have failed to find a solution. As Mr. Huntsman observes, not only have the northern species a progressively increased number of vertebræ, but a similar variation may occur within the limits of the species itself. In the flounder, *Hippoglossoides platessoides*, the northern examples have most vertebræ, while in the herring—*Clupea harengus*, the numbers of vertebræ decrease in passing from the