

the same time have the privilege of giving one or more courses of lectures at some university or institution of learning.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PRESIDENT ANGELL has announced that Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness of New York is the hitherto unnamed friend of the University whose conditional gift of \$3,000,000 was made public by President Hadley at the Commencement alumni dinner in 1920. Mrs. Harkness's gift of \$3,000,000 was made conditional upon the securing of an additional \$2,000,000 from alumni and other friends which was pledged on October first, 1921. In her original letter of gift, dated April 5, 1920, Mrs. Harkness stated: "I am informed that Yale University has recently increased the salaries of the members of its several faculties. . . . This action seems to me to be in accord with the general feeling of its alumni and friends, that those who are devoting their lives, with little or no opportunity for large pecuniary rewards, to the teaching of young men and women and the moulding of their characters and opinions, should receive so far as possible a compensation sufficient always to attract persons of ability and standing."

EARL B. YOUNG has been elected professor of geology at the Montana School of Mines, Butte, Mont.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE METRIC SYSTEM

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The National Academy of Sciences at its meeting in Chicago in November, on request, considered the bill introduced in the Senate by Senator E. F. Ladd, which reads as follows:

67th Congress,  
1st Session

S. 2267

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
July 18, 1921

Mr. Ladd introduced the following bill; which

was read twice and referred to the Committee on Manufacturers.

### A BILL

To fix the metric system of weights and measures as the single standard of weights and measures for certain uses

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after ten years from the date of passage and approval of this Act the weights and measures of the meter-liter-gram or metric system shall be the single standard of weights and measures in the United States of America for the uses set out herein.

*Sec. 2.* That the national prototypes of the fundamental standards of the metric system shall be the copies of the standards known as meter numbered twenty-seven and kilogram numbered twenty, allotted to the United States by the General Conference of Weights and Measures held at Paris in 1889. These are now deposited in the vault of the Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce and those which are now used and employed in deriving the values of all weights and measures used in the United States. These national representations are hereby adopted as the primary standards of weights and measures for the United States of America, and from these all other weights and measures shall be derived and ascertained.

*Sec. 3.* That from and after ten years from the date of passage and approval of this Act no person shall do or offer or attempt to do any of the following acts, by weights or measures, in or according to any other system than the metric system of weights and measures, namely:

(1) Sell any goods, wares, or merchandise except for export, as provided in section 8;

(2) Charge or collect for the carriage or transportation of any goods, wares, or merchandise.

*Sec. 4.* That from and after ten years from the date of passage of this Act no person shall use or attempt to use in any of the transactions detailed in section 3 any weight or measure or weighing or measuring device designed, constructed, marked, or graduated in any other system than the metric system of weights and measures.

*Sec. 5.* That not later than ten years from the date of passage and approval of this Act all postage, excises, duties, and customs charged or collected by weights or measures by the Government of the United States, shall be charged or collected

in or according to the metric system of weights and measures.

*Sec. 6.* That rules and regulations for the enforcement of this Act not inconsistent with the provisions hereof shall be made and promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce. The Secretary of Commerce shall also take such steps as he may deem expedient for giving publicity to the dates of transition specified herein and for facilitating the transition to the meter-liter-gram or metric system.

*Sec. 7.* That all Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed but only in so far as they are inconsistent herewith; otherwise they shall remain and continue in full force and effect. Whenever in any Act, or rules and regulations, or tariff or schedule made, ratified, approved, or revised by the Government of the United States of America weights or measures of the system now in customary use are employed or referred to, and to comply with the provisions of this Act weights and measures of the metric system should be employed, then such references in such Act, rules and regulations, tariff, or schedule shall be understood and construed as references to equivalent weights or measures of the metric system ascertained in accordance with the required degree of accuracy.

*Sec. 8.* That nothing in this Act shall be understood or construed as applying to—

(1) Any contract made before the date at which the provisions of this Act take effect;

(2) The construction or use in the arts, manufacture, or industry of any specification or drawing, tool, machine, or other appliance or implement designed, constructed, or graduated in any desired system;

(3) Goods, wares, or merchandise intended for sale in any foreign country, but if such goods, wares, or merchandise are eventually sold for domestic use or consumption then this clause shall not exempt them from the application of any of the provisions of this Act.

*Sec. 9.* That nothing herein shall be understood or construed as prohibiting the enactment or enforcement of weights and measures laws or ordinances by the various States or cities, and the various States or cities shall have the same powers as though this Act were not in force and effect: *Provided, however,* That no standard weights or measures shall be established for the uses set out herein which conflict in any way with the standards established herein, and such standards which may already have been established shall be null and void for the uses set out herein.

*Sec. 10.* That the word "person" as used in this Act shall be construed to import both the plural and singular, as the case demands, and shall include corporations, companies, societies, and associations. When construing and enforcing the provisions of this Act, the act, omission, or failure of any officer, agent, or other person acting for or employed by any corporation, company, society, or association, within the scope of his employment or office, shall in every case be also deemed to the act, omission, or failure of such corporation, company, society, or association as well as that of the person.

After discussion, the bill was referred to the Committee on Weights, Measures, and Coinage of the Academy for report, with power to act through the President of the Academy. Upon receipt of the report from the Chairman of that Committee, Dr. Thomas C. Mendenhall, the following communication was sent to Senator Ladd:

December 1, 1921

*My dear Senator Ladd:* Referring again to my recent communications regarding bill S2267 to fix the Metric System of Weights and Measures as the single standard for certain uses, I have received a report from the Committee on Weights, Measures, and Coinage, which was authorized to act for the National Academy of Sciences, approving bill S2267 with the following statement:

"Any measure that might now be passed is tolerably certain to need modification and amendment before the end of the probationary period."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) CHARLES D. WALCOTT,  
*President*

As Senator Ladd has requested that publicity be given to this action of the Academy, I am sending you this statement for inclusion in SCIENCE.

CHARLES D. WALCOTT,  
*President*

#### STAINS FOR THE MYCELIUM OF MOLDS AND OTHER FUNGI

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Microscopic examinations to determine the extent to which the mycelium of various fungi has penetrated infected specimens of wood consume an unduly large amount of time. Methods using organic substances, dyes and stains, to obtain a differ-