

when Messrs. Lovell Reeve & Co., who had bought the magazine from the Curtis family in 1845, found themselves unable to continue the publication, they offered the copyright to Kew for £250. Although the botanical authorities would gladly have carried on the publication, the government refused to sanction the purchase, and at one time there was considerable anxiety lest the copyright should be sold and cross the Atlantic. At a dinner of some leading horticulturists on the first night of the Chelsea Show the feeling was so strong that the magazine must remain in England that the requisite sum was guaranteed at once and the copyright was purchased on the following day. The next step was to propose to allow the magazine to appear as an official publication from Kew; but the Treasury refused to sanction the conditions imposed by the new owners. The latter then approached the council of the Royal Horticultural Society, with the result that it is hoped to resume publication in 1922, and an early announcement will be made as soon as the negotiations and arrangements are complete.

THE Elgin Observatory of the Elgin National Watch Company, at Elgin, Illinois, on Armistice Day, November 11, 1921, obtained its first chronographic record of the French scientific radio time signals from the LaFayette Station, Bordeaux, France, at a distance of 4,400 miles. The recording apparatus devised by Frank D. Urie is entirely automatic, the incoming radial signals controlling the movement of the chronographic pen. The receiving aerial is a small one consisting of a single wire 180 feet long and 30 feet high.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that a bill has been introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives to "reorganize and promote the efficiency of the United States Public Health Service." It is known as the Watson-Dyer bill. The bill provides for 550 officers of the reserve corps of the Public Health Service, including 50 dental surgeons and 50 scientists other than medical officers, who may be transferred to and commissioned in the regular corps of commissioned officers of the Public Health Service

by the President, in the grades of assistant surgeon, passed assistant surgeon, surgeon, senior surgeon, and assistant surgeon-general. Officers in the last grade will be known as medical directors. No officer will be commissioned or promoted until after passing an examination before a board of regular commissioned officers of the Public Health Service. The bill further provides that no reserve officer shall be commissioned in the regular corps of the Public Health Service who has not had three years' satisfactory service in the army, navy or Public Health Service, a part of which service must have been between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918. There are only 200 regular commissioned officers in the Public Health Service at present. They are largely engaged in administration, scientific research, industrial and child hygiene, neuropsychiatry, domestic and foreign quarantine, immigration, prevention of venereal diseases, public health education, and other matters pertaining to public health. There are about one thousand commissioned officers of the reserve of the Public Health Service on active duty, caring for ex-service men. These officers are indispensable, yet they have no fixed tenure of appointment. The Watson-Dyer bill transfers at least half of them to the regular service without any additional expense.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

MR. GEORGE F. BAKER, chairman of the board of directors of the First National Bank, has given \$700,000 to Columbia University for the purchase of an athletic field on Dyckman Street. The property, which comprises twenty-six acres, will be developed at a cost of about \$3,000,000.

THE University of North Carolina has received the sum of \$26,000 for the establishment of the Graham Kenan fellowship in philosophy. The gift was made by Mrs. Graham Kenan in memory of her late husband.

PROFESSOR WM. R. WORK, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, has been placed in charge of the department of electrical engineer-

ing, to succeed Professor Alexander J. Wurtz, who has been made research professor in the new research division of the institute.

DR. J. A. GUNTON has been appointed head of the chemistry department in Transylvania College, Lexington, Ky. Dr. Gunton recently received his doctorate of philosophy from the University of Illinois.

DR. CLIFFORD S. LEONARD, for the past year fellow in chemistry to Sweden on the American-Scandinavian Foundation, has completed his research at the Karoline and Nobel Institutes of Stockholm and has been appointed research instructor of pharmacology at the University of Wisconsin.

DR. R. H. ADERS PLIMMER has been appointed by the Senate of London University to the university chair of chemistry, tenable at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, beginning with the new year. At present he is head of the biochemical department of the Rowett Research Institute at the University of Aberdeen.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

SEARCH FOR THE RECORD OF ROBERT HANHAM COLLYER, M. D.

DR. COLLYER was registered as practicing medicine in London as late as the year 1878. After this it is believed he returned to America. Long previous to this, namely, in 1867, he had announced in the *Anthropological Review* a very important discovery,—a prehistoric jaw-bone of great geologic age. Of this Mr. J. Reid Moir of Ipswich, England, writes:

I am of the opinion that if the Foxhall jaw-bone could be reexamined now, it would be possible to say with considerable certainty as to whether it was derived from the Crag, or not. But, unfortunately, the specimen cannot now be found, and advertisements placed by me in various newspapers and other journals have failed to bring it to light. Owing to the kindness of the acting registrar to the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, I have been informed that Dr. Robert Hanham Collyer was registered in England on the 23rd of

June, 1868, with the qualification M.D., Medical College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 1839. His application for registration is dated the 23rd of October, 1867, when he gave his address as 40, Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood. At the time of his registration he was at 1, Norman Terrace, Stockwell, which he subsequently changed to 199, Brompton Road, S. W., which was his registered address in 1878, in which year his name lapsed from the Medical Register in consequence of this address having been found to be inaccurate by means of an inquiry under Section 14 of the Medical Act. According to the American Medical Directory, the college from which, apparently, he obtained his degree is described as the Berkshire Medical College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, an institution which is classed with those which are extinct—or merged with other colleges. There is reason to believe that Collyer returned eventually to America, taking the Foxhall jaw-bone with him. It would seem unlikely—in view of the importance he attached to the specimen—that no instructions would be left by him for the preservation of the specimen after his death, and I hope that the publicity now given to this matter may result in the Foxhall jaw-bone being once more brought to light.

There are several clues to aid our search. First the records and graduates of the Pittsfield Medical College. Some member of Dr. Collyer's class may have left descendants. Or, some member of his family may recall him. Or, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences may find letters from Dr. Collyer to Dr. Samuel G. Morton, the distinguished anthropologist of that institution.

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THE PROTECTION OF MICROSCOPIC SECTIONS

REFERRING to Professor Long's suggested method for protecting microscopic sections from mechanical injury in *SCIENCE* of October 7th., may I suggest the following, which will remedy the difficulty without resorting to the use of a thin film of parlodion.

Instead of using the *natural* Canada balsam for mounting (which does remain fluid for years), use balsam prepared by heating the