sia; (2) of effecting a closer contact between scientific and educational institutions of America and Russia, and (3) especially of helping the reconstruction of the academic life of the Russian universities and bringing relief to their members.

A LETTER has been received from the Attorney-General of the United States by the University of Chicago in appreciation of Professor Henry C. Cowles, of the department of botany, for his ecological investigations along the Red River for use in connection with a suit between the states of Oklahoma and Texas in the Supreme Court of the United States. "Dr. Cowles' investigations and testimony," the letter states, "have been of great value to the government, and, I am informed, to the cause of science in that they bring to the aid of engineering and physiographic investigations the comparatively new science of ecology, whereby the approximate time of the occurrence of changes in rivers, their flood plains and banks, is now definitely determined."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

IN addition to previous gifts to the building fund totalling $800,000, Mr. Samuel Mather, of Cleveland, has announced to the trustees of Western Reserve University that he will provide funds for the erection of the new building of the School of Medicine. The estimated cost of the school building is $1,910,000, of the animal house $93,500, of the power house $473,000, and of connecting tunnels $53,700, totalling $2,529,700. Plans and specifications are complete and construction will begin in the near future. The medical school building is the first of a group, to be followed by the construction of the Children's Hospital, the Maternity Hospital and the Lakeside Hospital, all of which are affiliated with the School of Medicine. The entire group will be situated on the university campus.

A BEQUEST of $150,000 to Wesleyan University is contained in the will of Mrs. Dexter Smith of Springfield, Mass. The money will be available either towards erection of a new library building or for the general endowment fund at discretion of the trustees.

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY have authorized the continuance of the du Pont chemical fellowships of the total value of $15,000 in twenty colleges and universities throughout the United States for the academic year of 1922-3. The fellowships are for post-graduate work.

MORLAND KING, who went to Lafayette College last year from Union College as associate professor of electrical engineering, has been made professor and head of the electrical engineering department.

A. L. PITMAN has been appointed assistant director of the Bangor Station of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's school of chemical engineering practice.

H. R. THEALTON, lately with Stone & Webster in Boston, has been appointed assistant professor of engineering at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada.

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

ABRAHAM COWLEY AND THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

I HAVE recently come upon a very interesting piece of history relating to agricultural education, while re-reading the essays of Abraham Cowley. The paper on agriculture in volume II of the 1707-1712 edition of his works contains one of the first recorded recommendations that I can find regarding the organization of agricultural colleges. In that essay he has the following to say:

Did ever a father provide a tutor for his son to instruct him betimes in the nature and improvements of that land which he intended to leave him? . . . I could wish (but can not in

these times much hope to see it) that one college in each University were erected, and appropriated to this study, as well as there are to Medicine, and the Civil Law. There would be no need of making a body of scholars and fellows, with certain endowments as in other colleges. It would suffice, if after the manner of Halls in Oxford, there were only four professors constituted (for it would be too much work for only one Master, or principal as they call him there) to teach these four parts of it. First *Aration,* and all things relating to it. Second, *Pasturage.* Thirdly, *Gardens, Orchards, Vineyards,* and *Woods.* Fourthly, All parts of *Rural Œconomy,* which would contain the government of Bees, Swine, Poultry, Decoys, Ponds, etc., and all that which Varro calls Villaticas Pastiones, together with the sports of the field and the Domestical Conservation and uses of all that is brought in by Industry abroad. The business of these Professors should be . . . to instruct their pupils in the whole method and course of this study, which might be run through perhaps with diligence in a year or two.

The above essay was written about the year 1659 to 1665, and it is very interesting to note that till more than a century after, in 1796, was a Department of Rural Economy organized at Oxford, and Professor John Sibforth elected to be the first head of the department. We do not find references to agricultural colleges again, however, till the beginning of the nineteenth century. It will therefore be observed that Cowley was distinctly in advance of his times. Bacon had suggested schools for experimental research, but did not suggest the idea of an agricultural college. We do unquestionably notice Bacon's influence on Cowley in many respects, and especially in his "Proposition for the Advancement of Experimental Philosophy." In the organization of the Royal Society in 1662, Cowley evidently saw a partial realization of his philosophy as outlined in the "Proposition," and he became one of the original members of the society.

Heretofore we have known Cowley the poet and Cowley the essayist, but he has not before been known as Cowley the scientist, and Cowley the educator. A modern critic has said of him that he had "delicacy of feeling and unfeigned enthusiasm for the nobler and purer joys of life, for great literature, friendship, science, and nature." In this fair estimate by Dr. Gough, we have Cowley the *scientist,* as well as the *poet* and *essayist.*

In reviewing the early agricultural literature, I find references to a "Colledge of Experiments," by Gabriel Plattes in 1639, and "An Essay for Advancement of Husbandry Learning: or Proposition for the erecting Colledge of Husbandry, etc.," by Samuel Hartlib in 1651. In this last the writer had no such clear conception of the proposition as Cowley had. Adolphus Speed in his essay "Adam out of Eden," 1659, suggests "Diverse excellent Experiments Touching the Advancement of Husbandry."

If the readers of SCIENCE have more detailed information on this matter I should like them to offer it to the public through these columns. A study of these books on English husbandry has renewed my interest in Cato, Varro and Columella on Ancient Husbandry, and I, for one, would like to see these valuable treatises on agriculture brought out in such a series as the Loeb Classical Library.

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THE LOST FOXHALL JAW; ROBERT HANHAM COLLYER

Since the note concerning Dr. Collyer printed in the issue of SCIENCE for January 20 was written, the records of the Berkshire Medical College have been searched and they indicate that Dr. Collyer was not of American birth, as supposed by Mr. J. Reid Moir and the writer, but of English birth, inasmuch as the registration entry is: "To the President and Professors of the Berkshire Medical College. This Thesis [on the Progression of Animal Life] is respectfully dedicated by R. H. Collyer, A.B.—of the Isle of Jersey, British Channel, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, November 1st, 1839." This registration renders it unlikely that further records of Dr. Collyer himself will be found in the United States. Mr. Moir is now searching the British university records, also the records of the Isle of Jersey. In the forthcoming number of *Natural History* (November-December) appears a full account of Dr. Collyer's discovery.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN
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