

and Sir William Matthews, past president of the British Institution of Civil Engineers.

THE death is reported of Senator Ciamician, professor of chemistry at Bologna.

CORRECTING a recent note in *SCIENCE*, the schedule of meetings of the American Astronomical Society is as follows: September, 1922, Yerkes Observatory; December, 1922, Cambridge and Boston; September, 1923, Mt. Wilson Observatory; December, 1923, Vassar College.

NINE British and American scientists, members of the expedition to the Andes Mountains to make a study of the physiological changes which enable people to live permanently at high altitudes, returned on February 1. The expedition was under the leadership of Joseph Barcroft of Cambridge University. Its membership included Dr. Alfred C. Redfield, assistant professor of physiology at the Harvard Medical School; Dr. C. A. L. Binger of the Rockefeller Institute, New York; Dr. George Harrop of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York; Dr. A. V. Bock of the Massachusetts General Hospital; Dr. Henry S. Forbes, of Harvard University; Dr. J. G. Meakins, of Edinburgh University, and Dr. J. H. Doggart of King's College, Cambridge. Professor Barcroft is now giving in Boston a course of Lowell lectures on the work of the expedition.

At the convention of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, held in New York City on February 3, a resolution was introduced by Mrs. Belle de Rivera endorsing a bill now before the legislature prohibiting the use of dogs for vivisection. There were about two thousand members in attendance and, according to the daily press, the motion was "overwhelmingly defeated."

THE late George R. White, president of the Potter Drug and Chemical Corporation, has bequeathed to the city of Boston a fund of more than \$5,000,000, the income of which is to be used for creating works of public utility and beauty. Two of the three objects specified by Mr. White are a zoological garden and an aquarium. Other bequests in Mr. White's will are \$100,000 each to the Children's Hospi-

tal, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Massachusetts General Hospital. The Massachusetts Hospital also is given a similar sum for the special purpose of treatment of diseases of the skin. Previous to his death Mr. White had given \$1,000,000 for a new building and endowment for the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

It is announced from Montreal that instead of converting the \$100,000 prize he has offered for a cancer cure into a fund for cancer research work, as he had been urged, Lord Atholstan has given a second \$100,000 for research.

THE fortieth course of popular medical lectures will be given under the auspices of the Stanford Medical School on alternate Friday evenings, as follows: January 13, The Basis of Modern Medicine: Dr. William Ophüls. January 27, The Attitude of the Public Toward the Blind: Miss Katherine Foley. February 10, The Treatment of Deformities Following Infantile Paralysis: Dr. Arthur L. Fisher. February 24, The Control of Botulism: Dr. E. C. Dickson. March 10, The Truth About Vivisection: Mr. Ernest H. Baynes. March 24, Present Day Methods of X-Ray Diagnosis: Dr. W. Edward Chamberlain.

THE city of Paris has authorized the expenditure of 2,500,000 francs (\$183,750 at present rate of exchange) for the purchase of radium to be used in the public hospitals for the cure of cancer.

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## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

APPROPRIATIONS of \$18,210,353 for colleges and universities, \$12,029,513 for medical schools, and \$646,000 for negro education were made during the last fiscal year by the General Education Board, founded by John D. Rockefeller, according to the report for 1920-21. The total appropriations of the board from its foundation in 1902 to June 30, 1921, have amounted to \$89,017,872. Of the gift of \$50,000,000 made by Mr. Rockefeller in 1919 for teachers' salaries, appropriations were

made up to July 1, 1921, which amounted to \$26,732,000, which was distributed among 191 different institutions. The annual report further reveals that Mr. Rockefeller has released the board from any obligation to hold any of his gifts in perpetuity.

THE will of the late A. Barton Hepburn, of New York City, gives \$250,000 to the A. Barton Hepburn Hospital at Ogdensburg, N. Y.; \$200,000 to Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt., of which Mr. Hepburn was a graduate; \$150,000 to Columbia University, of which he was a trustee, and \$100,000 to St. Lawrence University at Canton, N. Y., where he had lived. The will had also given \$100,000 each to Wellesley College, of which his daughters were graduates, and to Williams College, of which his son was a graduate, but these gifts were canceled by a codicil because he made gifts to those institutions two years ago, anticipating the intention of his will. Each gift to educational institutions is specifically made for the purpose of founding chairs in economics or history.

MR. WILLIAM COOPER PROCTOR has endowed three visiting fellowships at Princeton University with an annual stipend of \$2,000. The fellows are to be appointed, respectively, on nomination of the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge and the Paris Higher Normal School.

DR. M. C. MERRILL, head of the department of horticulture at the Utah Agricultural College and horticulturist at the Agricultural Experiment Station, has accepted an appointment as dean of the College of Applied Arts and as head of the department of horticulture of the Brigham Young University. This appointment is to take effect July 1.

H. M. JENNISON, assistant professor of botany and bacteriology at the Montana State College, has been granted leave of absence and will spend the remainder of the college year in the graduate laboratories of the Missouri Botanical Garden and Washington University, St. Louis.

ALFRED P. LOTHROP is on leave of absence from the chair of organic chemistry at

the Medical School, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, where he has taught for the past twelve years, to act as associate professor of chemistry at Oberlin College.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### PROFESSOR SUDHOFF'S PARACELSUS

THE announcement of the forthcoming publication of the complete works of Paracelsus, under the editorship of Professor Karl Sudhoff, of Leipzig, will be a matter of considerable interest to chemists and physicians as well as to philosophers. This edition will include the unprinted MS. material as well as what is already known in the printed texts. Paracelsus was a most prolific writer, but many of his more important works, familiar to bibliophiles by their characteristic title-pages in red and black, are now so rare as to be practically inaccessible, particularly such pamphlets as those on miners' diseases (1567) and mineral baths (1576).

Paracelsus, one of the pioneers in analytical chemistry, the founder of chemotherapy, and one of the great medical reformers of the sixteenth century, was even a doughtier figure than Vesalius, who began bravely but ended as a courtier, or Paré, whose popularity saved him from persecution. As compared with these men, Paracelsus occupies about the same position in medicine as did Luther or Knox in relation to Erasmus or Maitland of Lethington. He was more impulsive and impetuous and pushed his denunciation of scholastic medicine to the extreme limit of coarseness. His training was, however, better than is commonly supposed. As Sudhoff has shown, he graduated at Ferrara in 1515, having studied under the celebrated Leonicensus. Although Browning's poem idealizes him, he is commonly represented as a charlatan and a mountebank. This false view is, in the main, due to the character of his writings, which are a curious jumble of exaggerated swagger and of passages showing keen insight into the real nature of things, *e. g.*, that gout and calculus are diathetic diseases, or that goitre and myxœdema are hereditary