

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

It is announced that Vassar College plans to erect two new buildings, a \$150,000 physics laboratory and a \$100,000 alumnae building.

It is announced from Brussels that a legacy of \$100,000 goes to Louvain University, Belgium, for the erection of a special building for cancer research.

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY, who was appointed director of the Harvard College Observatory last fall, has been elected to the Paine professorship of practical astronomy, which has been vacant since the death of Professor Edward C. Pickering, in 1919.

DR. CHARLES W. FLINT will be installed as chancellor of Syracuse University on June 15.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS HARTMAN has recently been elected dean of the Day Technical School of Cooper Union, New York City. This appointment is in recognition of his long service at that institution as head of the department of physics and electrical engineering.

DR. RALPH A. WALDRON, formerly instructor in Pennsylvania State College and the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected professor of biology in Thiel College, Greenville, Pa.

E. W. MARKLE, who has been connected with the educational and recreational work of the United States army as principal and senior instructor of the electrical department, vocational schools, Camp Funston, Kansas, has been appointed assistant professor of electrical engineering at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

HAVE THE STREAMS OF LONG ISLAND BEEN DEFLECTED BY THE EARTH'S ROTATION?

DURING the summer of 1920 Mr. Henry Hicks, of Westbury, Long Island, pointed out to me the very interesting difference between the east and west banks of one of the short streams flowing across the almost flat southern slope of the island. Looking west across the almost imperceptibly sloping eastern bank of

the stream-way one sees the western bank rising quite steeply and very much resembling a railroad embankment in height and steepness.

This peculiar situation has long been accepted rather generally by geologists and physiographers¹ as due to the westerly deflection of streams by the earth's rotation. However, when one considers the weakness in flow of these streams, their very slight fall, and the fact that they are mostly less than ten miles long, serious doubts arise.² To one who, like the writer, has studied the cumulative effects of wind and vegetation upon wind-borne materials, it appears very probable that the deflective effect is very slight as compared with the resultant effects of these other agencies.

During glacial times and for some time afterwards there must have been, during dry weather and at times of high winds, a considerable movement of loose residual sands and glacial materials over the flat plain south of the terminal moraine which forms the backbone of Long Island. The general southwesterly winds would deposit their main load on the lee-side of any north-south trending bank and this deposition would be augmented and the drifting materials held by the denser vegetation of the moister stream margin. Probably tundra prevailed here for a long period during glacial times and, even yet, the region has not been entirely covered by forest, so that the effects of the notoriously strong winds of the South Shore would have been greater in the past than at present. It is suggested that someone make a careful study of a cross-section of one of these steeper west banks to determine the nature of the deposit and whether it may have been built as is here suggested.

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¹ Lewis, Elias, Jr., *Am. Journ. Sci.*, 3rd Ser., 13: 215-216, 1877.

Gilbert G. K., op. cit., 27: 427-432, 1884.

Fuller, Myron L., "The Geology of Long Island," U. S. G. S., Prof. Paper 82: 9, 10 and 50, 1914.

² See also in this connection, Geikie, Sir Archibald, *Encycl. Brit.*, 11th edit., 11: 649, 1910.