

Libby devotes a part of each period, say, twenty minutes of the hour, to a colloquium or critical discussion of the nature and application of the subject under consideration. In this way scientific technic is deliberated upon in all its aspects. These lectures are being delivered from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday of each week of the present university semester, in the Fellows' Room of the Mellon Institute.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE will of the late Miss Janet Williams, of Frederick, Md., contains a bequest of \$30,000 to Hood College, to create and maintain an astronomical building in memory of her father, John H. Williams, to be known as the Williams Observatory.

FESTIVITIES are being planned for this spring in honor of the founding of the University of Padua in 1222. Professor Lucatello, the rector of the university, is in charge of the arrangements.

THE Japanese ambassador at Vienna has presented the sum of 6,500,000 crowns to the university as a personal donation in tribute to the scientific work being done there in spite of the unfavorable circumstances.

DR. CLARENCE C. LITTLE was elected president of the University of Maine on April 7. Dr. Little graduated from Harvard in 1910 and received the doctor's degree in 1914. In 1916 he became an assistant dean of Harvard College and research fellow in genetics for the Cancer Commission of Harvard University. Since his discharge from the army as major he has been research associate in the Station for Experimental Evolution of the Carnegie Institution.

DR. D. S. ROBINSON, assistant professor of philosophy at University of Wisconsin, has accepted the professorship of philosophy at Miami University. Dr. E. B. Powell has held the chair of philosophy since 1905 and resigns the chair at the close of this year to devote his time to writing.

JOHN ARTHUR RANDALL, secretary of the Advisory Board of the General Staff of the War Department, has been appointed president

of Rochester Mechanics Institute. Mr. Randall was selected by the trustees to continue the development of a technical educational program containing liberal components.

DR. GEORGE THOMAS, formerly professor of economics in the University of Utah and since 1921 superintendent of public education in Utah, has been installed as president of the university.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

POPULAR SCIENCE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I am very much interested in Dr. Slosson's letter about popular science writing which appears in SCIENCE for March 3, just received. Since some of my own information and experience is along this line it may be worth while for me to make some additional comment.

I think that I can see a large number of conditions involved in the fact mentioned by Dr. Slosson that there is a dearth of popular science writers in this country, but I shall only discuss one or two of them. First and foremost is the malodorous condition of the popular science field which for some time has been so largely and so conspicuously occupied by fabricators, exaggerators, emotionalists, ignoramuses and exploiters that many people of training and ability hesitate to enter. Furthermore if an entrance is attempted by use of an informative article of clarity and real merit the author may have the humiliation of seeing his work rejected for that of some irresponsible clown or gaudy sentimentalist who is successful in assembling a group of highly stimulating words ("lots of pep") which may or may not have some relation to fact.

Even more important than such discouragement to potential writers is the effect of lax, inaccurate and falsified statement of scientific material upon the reading public. I am sure that for a period of fifty years more hoaxes have been perpetrated by newspapers in the name of science than in any other way. As much as thirty years ago most intelligent people were suspicious of material presented by the public press as science. In the last