

quired by the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, where it is now deposited. He spared no effort or expense to make it as complete as possible.

CARL HERING

#### THE TEACHING OF EVOLUTION IN THE BAPTIST INSTITUTIONS OF TEXAS

THE teaching of evolution in the Baptist denominational schools in Texas is being investigated as heretical. The denomination is strong in membership and maintains about 15 colleges and seminaries in the state, the chief of which is Baylor University at Waco. It appears that the trouble arose as the result of the publication in 1920, by the Baylor University Press itself, of an "Introduction to the Principles of Sociology," by Grove Samuel Dow, Professor of Sociology in Baylor University. The book is based upon the theory of evolution wherever it touches upon the biological aspects of sociology, although the term biological evolution is scarcely or not at all used in the text. At a recent conference of representatives of the Baptists of all parts of the state, such teachings were pronounced heresy, and a sweeping investigation is being made of all of the Baptist schools of the state to determine how much "heresy" is being taught. Professor Dow has resigned his position.

A somewhat related situation has existed at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, where the teaching of Dr. John A. Rice, Professor of Old Testament Interpretation, has created the severe opposition of a large part of his church. Dr. Rice's book, "The Old Testament in the Life of Today," looks upon the Old Testament as a series of independent historical papers, each subject to its own interpretation. Many are considered as having been revised by several authors before they have reached their present form. Each is regarded as a literary production, subject to all of the rules of literary interpretation; this introduces a personal factor into any understanding of the Old Testament, and completely does away with literal interpretations. Dr. Rice has also left

his position, to become pastor of a Methodist church in another state.

S. A. R.

#### THE METRIC CAMPAIGN

MR. HALSEY's recent letter in *SCIENCE* is of interest in view of the hearings that have been held during the past few months on the Britten-Ladd Bill. It was made clear in these hearings that wire, for instance, is readily defined as a 2 millimeter wire (2 mm in diameter) or, by a less convenient method, as a wire 0.079 inch in diameter. An inferior method is to refer to such a wire as a No. 46 Stubs' wire (2.01 mm or 0.079 inch) or a No. 14 Birmingham (Stubs') wire (2.11 mm or 0.083 inch). There are at least three other gages that have been used to a greater or less extent. It was shown in the metric hearings that if this convenient metric method continued to prevail, certain gage manufacturers would lose the advertising value connected with the use of their gages. It furthermore developed that it was a gage manufacturer who had organized what opposition he could in order to fight the metric system, had contributed \$1,000 from his firm and had brought about the employment of Mr. Halsey in his metric fight. Mr. Halsey had profited by his anti-metric efforts in the past. His own words in this controversy were "We have killed the metric system before and we will kill it again." We have no objection to Mr. Halsey's attempted slaughter of the metric system. Readers of *SCIENCE*, however, may be unaccustomed to his method of argument. In his recent letter, for instance, he endeavors to make it appear that Professor E. C. Bingham of Lafayette College is "naïve" and ignorant regarding weights and measures, and that therefore he should not be encouraged in the successful campaign to secure the use of metric weights and measures throughout the industry in which he is an expert. Professor Bingham's many friends and acquaintances do not need to be told that he is unusually well informed and proficient in his work.

Mr. Halsey's use of the title "Commissioner" is also of interest. This has led a few people to believe for a time that Mr. Halsey in some

way represented a federal, state or municipal organization.

Mr. Halsey refers to a report issued in October, 1921, as confirmation of all his contentions. It is amusing to find that this report was drawn up under the guidance of a committee of five men: the gage manufacturer referred to above, two others associated with him in his fight to kill the metric system, and an impotent minority of two good metric advocates.

However, the use of metric weights and measures, legal for all transactions in the United States since July 28, 1866, is above personalities. As a nation we find ourselves to-day endeavoring to bring about mutual understanding and world-wide trade. At least 46 countries have officially adopted the metric system for general use. Partly through the excellent work of the Decimal Association of London, England has already left America behind in the use of metric weights and measures.

The hearings are over on the Britten-Ladd Bill. The campaign to put this bill, or a modified form of it, through Congress is before our association. At the same time we are co-operating with the Toronto and other sections of the American Metric Association, and an ever increasing number of men and women in North America are using metric weights and measures. We ask for the cooperation of all in the United States and Canada.

HOWARD RICHARDS,

*Secretary,*

*American Metric Association*

APRIL 25, 1922

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

### THE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCHES OF GUSTAF RETZIUS

VOLUME XIX, *Neue Folge*, of the *Biologische Untersuchungen* of Gustaf Retzius completes the scientific works of the great anatomist and anthropologist who died in the summer of 1919.

This posthumous volume has been edited and compiled at the request of Madame Retzius by Professor Carl Furst, of the University of Lund. Professor Furst is the oldest living

friend and colleague of Retzius, and was well equipped, both by virtue of long acquaintance and collaboration with the author, and by familiarity with his work, to edit for publication the series of technical papers which comprise the volume. These papers are seven in number, and are accompanied by twenty-one beautiful plates of folio size.

The first contribution, under the title, "Weitere Beiträge zur Kenntnis von dem Bau und der Anordnung des Ependyms und der sämtlichen Neuroglia, besonders bei den niederen Vertebraten" (Taf. I-XVI), describes the neuroglia and ependyma of various vertebrates in four sections, viz.: A. Amphioxus; B. Myxine; C. Petromyzon; and D. Selachians, Teleosts, Amphibia, Birds and Mammals. The text of section D has been inserted by the editor from a translation into German of an article originally published elsewhere by Retzius in Swedish. The editor states: "Wir bekommen dadurch von Retzius selbst eine Erklärung einiger wichtiger, hier mitgeteilten Figuren. Gustaf Retzius hat mehrmals frühere Arbeiten, die in schwedischer Sprache herausgegeben waren, später in Biol. Unter. in deutscher Übersetzung aufgenommen. Wenn ich diese Abhandlung aus der Müllerschen Festschrift einsetze lasse ich doch grossteils die historische Einleitung der Abhandlung aus. Der Inhalt dieses Historik ist nämlich in den hier oben mitgeteilten Abhandlung ausführlichen mitgeteilt."

The second paper, "Einige Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Struktur der Ependym- und Nervenzellen im Rückenmark der Cyclostomen" (Taf. XVII, Fig. 1-24), describes a type of cell among the ependyma cells of the spinal cord of cyclostomes which has been called "inneren Sinneszellen" by several investigators, but which Retzius concludes are modified ependyma cells. The second part of this article considers the fibrillar structure of nerve cells of the spinal cord in this lowly group of vertebrates.

Nine of the folio pages and one plate (Taf. XVIII) describe certain phases of the structure of the lens of the eye, under the title "Zur Kenntnis des Baus des Glaskörpers im Auge des Menschen."