

Glasgow, on April 26, in the Hall of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

At a meeting of the advisory council of the Phipps Institute, Philadelphia, April 29, gifts totaling \$150,000 were announced. The sum of \$25,000 will be given yearly for five years by the Carnegie Corporation, for research purposes. Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, acting provost of the University of Pennsylvania, stated that the board of trustees had voted \$25,000 to be given during the next two years to the institute. The family of Henry Phipps announced that they pledged \$500,000 to the endowment fund, provided an additional \$2,500,000 be raised.

THE fund for the establishment of the Harvard School of Public Health will be entitled the Henry Pickering Walcott Fund in honor of the senior member of the Harvard Corporation. As has already been announced, the Rockefeller Foundation has agreed to contribute at once \$1,500,000 and eventually \$500,000 in addition; these amounts will be increased by a fund of \$1,000,000 provided by the university and also by the income of more than \$3,000,000 which is now being expended by the university in various departments which will be incorporated in the school. It will probably open next year for instruction and research in the field of public health. It will be closely allied to the Harvard Medical School, and Dr. David L. Edsall will serve as dean of both schools. Certain departments now organized under the Medical School, such as those of industrial hygiene and tropical medicine, will become part of the new school, which will also develop and enlarge the work of the School of Public Health now jointly conducted by Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

THE Board of Research Studies of the University of Cambridge, in a report on the admission of research students, records that steps have been taken to concentrate in the board the power of admission of research students, and it is hoped that this will tend towards the preservation of a uniform standard of qualification. Secondly, they record that it has been decided to institute the degrees of M.Litt.

and M.Sc. The regulations for these degrees appear in the current number of the *Reporter*. The number of research students admitted when the last report was presented was 72. Since then 71 have been admitted, making in all 143. These figures, however, hardly represent the comparative number of admissions this year and last, for at the beginning many already at work under the old regulations for the B.A. degree were permitted to transfer. During the year two students withdrew their names. The proportion of Cambridge graduates among the students now admitted has risen. The large number of graduates of other universities within the British Isles remains a feature. Those from Canada and the United States are fewer than may be anticipated when the degree is better known, their combined number—25—being approximately that of those coming from the Indian Empire.

THE British Board of Trade has issued an order exempting certain German scientific and other periodicals from the provisions of the German Reparation Act of 1921. Any article is exempted "being a publication in the German language which is proved to the satisfaction of the commissioners of customs and excise to be a periodical publication of a German learned society, or other scientific or philosophical periodical publication."

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

PROFESSOR EDWARD H. ROCKWELL, after twenty years of service on the faculty of the Engineering School at Tufts College, has accepted a call to Rutgers College to be dean of the Engineering School.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made by the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute that Professor Edwin A. Fessenden, of Pennsylvania State College, will become, at the beginning of the next collegiate year, professor and head of its department of mechanical engineering.

PROFESSOR HERBERT R. MOODY, for seventeen years connected with the department of chemistry of the College of the City of New York as professor of industrial chemistry and chemical engineering, has been appointed director

of the department to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Professor Charles Baskerville.

Dr. GEORGE DOCK has resigned his position as professor of medicine at Washington University Medical School, St. Louis.

At Columbia University, Dr. James P. Southall, physics, and Dr. James Kendall, chemistry, have been promoted to professorships. Dr. Robert H. Bowen, zoology, Dr. Roy J. Colony, geology, Dr. John A. Northcott, mathematics, and Dr. Hugh Findlay, agriculture, have been promoted to assistant professorships.

PROMOTIONS in psychology and educational psychology at Columbia University are announced as follows: At Barnard College, Dr. H. L. Hollingworth to a full professorship; at Columbia University, Dr. A. T. Poffenberger to an associate professorship; at Teachers College, Dr. Arthur I. Gates, Dr. William A. McCall and Dr. Leta S. Hollingworth to associate professorships.

Dr. EDWIN G. BORING and Dr. Herbert S. Langfeld have been appointed associate professors of psychology at Harvard University. Dr. Boring has since 1919 been professor of experimental psychology at Clark University. Dr. Langfeld has been promoted from an assistant professorship.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### DECEREBRATION IN BIRDS

THE recent observations of Shaklee<sup>1</sup> on decerebrate pigeons serve to emphasize some features of the physiology of the central nervous system of special interest to workers in this line. The long period of survival—nearly twelve months—and the new features of decerebrate behavior recorded, again call attention to the possibilities of this method of experimentation as well as to some of the dangers of its interpretation.

The positive result of the return of the drinking reaction, not hitherto obtained in

similar work, points to a greater flexibility in the neural mechanism than we have usually ascribed to it and falls into line with some of the newer conceptions that have been gaining foothold in the field of brain function. Whatever interpretation of the results may be made regarding the process by which such restoration of function is accomplished, everyone must be impressed by its extent and adaptive importance.

The differences between the present work and the results of Martin and Rich<sup>2</sup> to which Shaklee refers deserve a word of comment. Aside from the difference in species used, which may or may not have influenced the results, it should be emphasized that Martin and Rich operated on newly hatched chicks, thus excluding the influence of individual habit or experience prior to decerebration, while Shaklee used adult pigeons. Another factor is the distinctly longer period of survival in the pigeons.

The highly speculative interpretation placed upon these very interesting results may be passed over with the exception of one or two points. It seems surprising that, if the arc upon which the drinking reaction depends is of the deeply ingrained type postulated, it did not show activity for 32 days. In considering the feeding reaction the importance of taste seems strangely overstressed. A hard grain in the tip of the beak could give rise to very little more taste than do the bits of gravel which are also normally swallowed by birds.

The interpretation of work of this nature must be cautious. The facts of re-education (I use the term without implication as to the method by which restoration or substitution is accomplished) in man and animals show that many things can be done which are never normally done in the lives of the vast majority of the individuals or of their ancestors. As when storms damage telephone and telegraph lines, communication can be effectively established by routes never normally used, so in the nervous system possible and efficient arcs and

<sup>1</sup> *Am. Journ. Physiol.*, Vol. lv, p. 65, 1921.

<sup>2</sup> *Am. Journ. Physiol.*, Vol. xlvi, p. 396, 1918.