

League of Nations which held its first session at Geneva from August 1 to 5. The commission had been given a free hand to define its own program with due regard to existing national activities and existing organs of international intellectual life. The following were among the topics selected for consideration: the desperate economic condition of the *intelligenza* in some European countries—notably Austria and Poland; the protection of proprietary rights in scientific discoveries and ideas; the establishment of an international *entente* for the examination and publication of archeological monuments; inter-university relations; and an international organization of bibliography. All these questions have been referred to individual members of the commission or to sub-commissions for the preparation of reports with the view of taking further action. As for cooperation in scientific research, the commission, anxious not to interfere in the organization or work of the scientific societies, decided that this should be left to the initiative of the societies themselves. Another question on which the commission found itself unable to take any useful action was the publication by common consent of workers in all parts of the world of discoveries relative to toxic gases and the development of chemical warfare. It decided to reply to the reduction-of-armaments commission, which had referred the question, that it was unable to suggest methods whereby this result might be brought about.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

MR. JAMES B. DUKE has given \$1,125,000 to Trinity College. The gifts include \$1,000,000 to the college endowment fund, \$25,000 to the new gymnasium, \$50,000 towards a \$100,000 law building and \$50,000 toward a \$100,000 building for the new school of religious training.

DR. WORTH HALE, assistant dean of the Harvard Medical School, has been appointed acting dean to serve during Dr. David L. Edsall's absence in Europe during the first half year; Dr. Roger I. Lee will serve as acting dean of the School of Public Health.

DR. JOHN M. T. FINNEY has been appointed temporary surgeon-in-chief of the Johns Hopkins Hospital and professor of surgery in the medical school, in place of the late Dr. William S. Halsted. The faculty will appoint a committee to make a permanent selection.

DR. L. A. PECHSTEIN, director of the department of psychology and education of the University of Rochester, has been appointed dean of the College for Teachers of the University of Cincinnati, to succeed Dr. W. P. Burris.

THE psychology department of the Ohio State University announces the following additions to its staff: Herbert H. Goddard, full professor; Robert D. Williams, assistant professor; Marjorie Bates, instructor. The following promotions have also been made: Harold E. Burtt to full professor; A. Sophie Rogers to assistant professor.

RICHARD C. LORD, Ph.D. (Washington and Lee), for some time engaged in industrial chemistry, has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry and physics in Kenyon College.

DR. F. I. WERTHEIMER, recently connected with Professor Kraepelin's clinic at Munich, has become a member of the staff of the Henry Phipps Psychiatric Clinic at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

THE Council of University College of North Wales has appointed Professor David Thoday, of the South African University, Cape Town, to the chair of botany, in succession to Dr. Phillips, who retires after thirty-eight years' service.

DR. GEORGE HASWELL WILSON, lecturer in bacteriology at the University of Glasgow, has been appointed to the chair of pathology in the University of Birmingham, rendered vacant by the election of Professor J. Shaw Dunn to the corresponding post in the University of Manchester.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE DEATH RATE FROM TUBERCULOSIS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: About a year ago, I had occasion to request of the chief

executive of one of our important health departments, information upon the incidence of tuberculosis in his state for the past decade. In his reply he stated, among other things, that recently there had been a very marked and quite inexplicable decline in the tuberculosis death rate. The statement struck me as singular, for it is difficult to conceive of a sudden, conspicuous decline in the death rate of a disease of the nature of tuberculosis, without a reasonable explanation for it. A very brief search for an explanation soon revealed the fact that the experience of the particular health officer to whom I had written was not peculiar to his state, but was demonstrable for practically all our registration states, as well as for the most of our larger centers of urban population.

If one will chart by years the mortality rates for tuberculosis for a period covering the past fifteen or twenty years, for almost any of our states or cities that keep correct records and that have been active in the suppression of tuberculosis, it will be seen that in the main there was a steady decline until 1917 and 1918. During 1918 and 1919 there was a sharp upward trend to the curve, followed in a year, or at most two years, by a marked downward direction of the curve—much steeper in its descent than that preceding 1917-1918. With a number of such charts before one, the reason for the recent decrease in the death rates from tuberculosis becomes obvious. The pandemic of influenza of 1918-19 carried off, in a brief period, a large number of tuberculosis subjects that would otherwise have lived on and their deaths been so distributed through later years as not materially to have disturbed the uniform downward direction of the tuberculosis curve that preceded the period of the great pandemic.

From the standpoint of results, advantageous to the race alone, and disregarding all humane considerations, this may be viewed as the beneficent influence of a great plague. The least resistant of the population succumbed, those more resistant and physically better fitted to survive, did so. The human material thus left is probably the most promising that has existed for generations, in so far as the permanent lessening of tuberculosis among it

is concerned; and we can expect that the curve for tuberculosis death rates in the future will be for a time much more sharply downward than ever before, and that its average level for a number of coming years will be much lower than that preceding the epidemic of influenza, providing, of course, there is no abatement of those widespread activities that have been so instrumental in lessening the incidence of the disease in the past.

For the anti-tuberculosis worker, the present appears to offer a golden opportunity.

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OLD GLACIATION IN THE CORDILLERAN REGION

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The communication by Thomas Large on the above subject in the September 22 issue of SCIENCE prompts me to write that in 1916 I found till with striated boulders and pebbles in the brickyard near the normal school at Cheney, Washington, beyond the limits here reported by Large. I brought this matter to the notice of the Geological Society of America at the Albany meeting in December, 1916, and the following brief statement concerning it appears in the proceedings of that meeting (*Bull. Geol. Soc. America*, Vol. 28, p. 143):

In northern Washington the occurrence of a very old drift, probably Kanas, was established by the discovery of till and striated stones on a high divide southwest of Spokane, in the vicinity of Cheney. Boulders had been observed in this region, and the possibility of glaciation had been suggested by M. R. Campbell in the Northern Pacific Guide Book.

FRANK LEVERETT

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN,
SEPTEMBER 25, 1922

SOME SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE GEOLOGY OF CALIFORNIA AND PARTS OF THE DUTCH EAST INDIES

IF we compare the Sierra Nevada with the Malay Peninsula, the Coast Range with the Barisan Mountains of West Sumatra and the great valley of California with the plains of East-Sumatra, it is obvious that the topograph-