

Tropical Medicine at Panama was laid on February 1 by President Porras, assisted by members of the American College of Surgeons touring in South America. The institute will be governed by a board of directors of which Rear Admiral W. C. Braisted, retired, is president and Dr. Richard P. Strong, director of the Harvard University School of Tropical Medicine, is the scientific director.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

MR. JOHN HAYS HAMMOND has endowed a scholarship in engineering for a Mexican student at Yale University. The scholarship is for a four years' course and covers expenses of tuition, dormitory, meals, books, fees, etc., and transportation from and to the Mexican border.

DR. GEORGE E. POTTER has endowed a fellowship in pathology in the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery.

THE new chemistry section of the Technical High School of Stockholm has been opened. The building, which cost 3,300,000 kroner, is said to be one of the largest chemical laboratories of the world. It has four large laboratories for inorganic, organic, technical and electro-chemistry, and a smaller for the study of fermentation. The director is Professor W. Palmaer.

MISS ADA LOUISE COMSTOCK, dean of Smith College, has been appointed president of Radcliffe College, in succession to Dr. Le Baron R. Briggs, who for twenty years has been head of Radcliffe and dean of the faculty of arts and sciences at Harvard University.

DR. IRA N. HOLLIS, for ten years president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and previously professor of engineering at Harvard University, has offered his resignation to the board of trustees.

DR. ARTHUR HOLLY COMPTON, head of the Department of Physics in Washington University, has been appointed professor of physics at the University of Chicago.

PROFESSOR STRAUB of Freiburg has been called to Munich to occupy the chair of pharmacology as successor to Professor von Tappeiner, who is to retire on account of his advanced age.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### AN UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE OF ROCK BORING MOLLUSKS IN CONCRETE ON THE PACIFIC COAST

It has often been supposed that concrete in sea water might be subject to attack by rock boring mollusks, especially of the family Pholadidae, various species of which perforate rocks of a number of different kinds and often of a considerable degree of hardness. But specific instances of the occurrence of these organisms in concrete marine structures have been lacking. Hence the data here reported are of considerable interest from both the biological and engineering points of view.

In the work of widening the channel in Los Angeles harbor, about November 13, 1922, it became necessary to remove some old wooden piling which had been protected from marine borer attack by jacketing with concrete. It was discovered by Mr. D. E. Hughes, engineer in charge of dredging operations, that, of 18 such jackets examined at this location, 16 had been more or less attacked by pholad borers. About five were considered to be badly attacked, containing six or more borers per square foot of exposed surface; the others contained fewer, and some only an occasional borer. The two jackets not attacked stood in shallower water than the others. The jackets had been in place fourteen years, but had not been exposed to rock borer attack during the entire period, as the form lumber had been left about the jackets when they were constructed, and this gave protection from the rock borers until the wood was destroyed by wood boring organisms. In some cases, indeed, a thin shell of the old form lumber still remained adhering to the concrete.

Attention of the writers was called to this finding, and, with the cooperation of the Los Angeles Harbor Engineering Department and the San Francisco Bay Marine Piling Committee, collaborating with the National Research Council committee on marine piling investigations, a further investigation was made. It was found that, of concrete jacketed piles at four different locations in Los Angeles harbor, in fact, at every point in the inner harbor where such piles exist, about 50 per cent. had been more or less attacked, of which rather