to Professor Homer R. Dill, director of the vertebrate museum at the University of Iowa, who in turn presented them to the university.

THE British Medical Research Council has undertaken to organize an investigation into dogs' distemper, towards which funds will be provided by the *Field* Distemper Council. Researches will be conducted by members of the Medical Research Council's staff, partly at the National Institute for Medical Research, Hampstead, but more particularly at the new farm laboratory, for which a site near London has recently been acquired. As opportunities arise and suitable assistance can be secured, inquiries coordinated with these will be promoted at other centers of work. These investigations will also be brought into relation with other studies in human and animal pathology. The Medical Research Council has appointed the following scientific committee to advise on the subject and to direct the investigations: Sir William B. Leishman, K.C.M.G., C.B., F.R.S., director of pathology, War Office, and a member of the Medical Research Council (chairman); Mr. J. B. Buxton; Captain S. R. Douglas, F.R.S., National Institute for Medical Research; Professor F. Hobday, and Dr. C. J. Martin, F.R.S., director of the Lister Institute.

IT is reported that the appropriation bill for the Pennsylvania State College covering the years 1924 and 1925 now before the Pennsylvania legislature allows only $1,360,000 for general college operation, a sum over half a million below what is now required for maintenance. It is said that the college can not stand this cut and perform the work it is now doing. In part, a reduction on this scale would mean that: There would have to be a thirty per cent. reduction in a student body of 3,300 men and women; practically no new students could be admitted for two years; the college would face a possible disruption of organization through the loss of valued faculty members; no new research demanded by the people of the commonwealth could be undertaken and present investigations might have to be abandoned entirely; no expansion of work could be considered. Farmers have but recently asked for a new department of agricultural economics at State College, but this could not be established with the maintenance figure proposed.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE State Legislature of Kansas has appropriated $2,215,288, exclusive of the Smith-Lever offset funds, for the support of the college and station during the biennium beginning July 1. This amount is about $500,000 less than the appropriation made in 1921, the reduction resulting chiefly from the diminished requests by the college for new buildings. The appropriations for salaries and maintenance, from which most of the state funds for the support of the main station are allotted, were slightly increased. The funds for the four substations were increased from $66,000 to $95,288.

A COMPETITIVE scholarship of $1,000 has been offered by the Harvard Engineering School for the year 1923-24, to be open to seniors graduating next month from colleges or departments of liberal arts throughout the country. No student now in Harvard will be eligible for the competitions nor any student registered in any engineering or technical school. Award of the scholarship will be based on the complete academic record of the applicant, together with the result of a special three-hour written examination including mathematics and physics.

DR. LEONARD B. LOEB has been appointed assistant professor of physics in the University of California. Dr. Loeb was assistant to Sir Ernest Rutherford in the University of Manchester in 1919, and for the past four years has been national research fellow in physics. During that period he has worked at the University of Chicago and has published a number of papers on ionization in gases.

AT Harvard University Dr. Esper S. Larsen, Jr., of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been appointed professor of petrography to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Professor John Eliot Wolff. Dr. Kirtley Fletcher Mather, now head of the geological department of Denison University, Granville, Ohio, has been appointed professor of geology for

a term of one year. Dr. John H. Mueller, now associate professor at Columbia University, has been appointed assistant professor of bacteriology and immunology in the medical school. Dr. E. L. Chaffee has been promoted from an assistant professorship in the department of physics to an associate professorship. Dr. Hilding Berglund, research assistant, has been appointed assistant professor of medicine.

DR. OSCAR M. SLOSS has resigned his post at the Children's Hospital, Boston, to become professor of pediatrics in the Cornell University Medical School.

DUE to the continued illness of President Samuel F. Kerfoot, of Hamline University, Dean Henry L. Osborn, professor of biology and geology, has been authorized to assume the responsibilities of president in his absence.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE ENDOWMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

SCIENCE for April 13 contains two timely reflections upon the use of wealth to aid research. One of them laments the taking over of the research functions of the university by wealthy corporations; the other, echoing Dr. Pritchett's pessimistic query—Can wealth be given away to the benefit of the public?—raises a doubt as to the efficacy of large benefactions in aid of scientific research.

If corporate capital is robbing our universities of their best research professors, should not the fact constitute a stimulus for increasing the diminishing supply rather than a cause for deploring the increasing demand? And if it is lamented that great benefactions to scientific research as now administered do not produce the results one would rightly expect, is not that a reason for changing the prevailing modes of administering these great trusts, rather than a ground for discouraging them altogether?

It is idle to maintain that great corporations can exhaust the most interesting fields of modern science; for every new scientific discovery opens up a dozen new problems of scientific research. Moreover, the fact that these corporations with their great capital of wealth and inventive brains are every day providing science with improved tools for research that university resources could never hope to supply is constantly ignored in these Jeremiads.

It is equally idle to maintain that benefactions in the aid of science are in themselves and *per se* fatal to scientific progress. For these benefactions are supposed to be gifts to science, not gifts to persons. If science does not derive benefit from them, it argues that there is something wrong with the method by which they are administered, not with the gifts themselves.

That the prevailing mode of administering great benefactions in the aid of science is not as efficient as it might be may be due to the fact that those who determine the personal recipients of these funds and the particular research problems to which they shall be applied must decide these matters largely from a personal rather than from a scientific point of view. I do not mean to charge favoritism—that this "kissing goes by favor": but no dozen men in the world, scientists or business men, are capable of wisely determining in all cases and under all circumstances the most fruitful application of these great benefactions. If the proposed benefaction is to be limited to some field of research, its application should be determined by the consensus of the majority of the most experienced research scientists in that field, and not upon the special predilections and enthusiasms of one or two of them; if it is to cover the whole field of scientific research it should first be impartially budgeted with regard to the needs of each particular field and then applied in accordance with the consensus of the majority of its most experienced representatives.

We now have special American organizations for research in the cardinal branches of science and a general clearing house for activities of American scientific research as a whole. By using these instrumentalities to determine the application of benefactions to scientific problems we should at least escape from the limitations of small groups of scientific almoners. Even though the results might not prove to be all that could be desired, the plan is well worth trying, especially in view of the fact that it seems already to have worked well on a small scale. Such a plan would at least prevent the