

THE death is also announced of Dr. H. Lacombe, professor of physical and natural sciences at the University of Rio de Janeiro, editor of the *Revista de Medicina*.

THE second International Congress of Comparative Pathology will be held in Rome from October 7 to 14. Information can be obtained from Professor Peronetto, 40, Corso, Valentino, Turin.

THE Sayre Observatory of Lehigh University has been closed, as the observatory is rendered useless for accurate scientific work by the vibration of the earth caused by the passage of street cars a quarter of a mile away.

THE Committee on Guaranteed Reagents and Standard Apparatus of the American Chemical Society will hold an open discussion on chemical reagents at one of the sessions of the Industrial Division at the Milwaukee meeting. The discussion will be a friendly exchange of experiences such as might take place if two or three were talking together at lunch. The details of the meeting will not be published. Names, dates and analyses will be reported showing the good and bad reagents received at various laboratories. Manufacturers will be invited to explain some of their difficulties in finding out the requirements for various reagents and in meeting these requirements. In order that the time may be used to the greatest advantage any one who has definite facts to present should send a copy of his data to the chairman of the Committee on Guaranteed Reagents and Standard Apparatus, W. D. Collins, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. It is possible that the amount of material to be presented will not leave much time for general discussion or for the reciting of facts not previously submitted to the committee. Instances of good service and deliveries of exceptionally good reagents will be more valuable to the hearers than instances of the opposite kind.

WM. GAERTNER & Co., manufacturers of scientific instruments, who have been located at 5445-49 Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, for over twenty-five years, have commenced building a factory and office building, which will occupy the southwest corner of Wrightwood and Racine Avenues. The new building, 154 x 135 feet, will cost in the neighborhood of \$150,000. It has been designed by the Chicago architects, Schmidt, Garden and Martin, and will be equipped with all modern facilities for the production of scientific instruments, including astronomical telescopes.

A TRACT of forty-four acres of land in Minneapolis on the banks of the Mississippi River, valued at \$100,000, and an endowment fund of \$900,000 have been given to the University of Minnesota for the construc-

tion and endowment of a hospital and convalescent home for crippled children. This gift is from William Henry Eustis, a former mayor of Minneapolis, who a month ago presented 21 acres of land to the city as a site for the Dowling School for Crippled Children, which the board of education of Minneapolis will erect. The children's hospital will be erected on the campus of the medical school, and the riverside tract will be retained as a site for the convalescent home.

It is planned to hold a reunion of former students and staff members of the Lick and Students Observatories of the University of California on Tuesday, September 18, at Pasadena. All interested are urged to arrange to be present.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation has promised Oberlin College \$500,000 on condition that an additional \$1,500,000 be raised.

DR. ERNEST DEWITT BURTON, who has been acting president of the University of Chicago since the retirement of President Harry Pratt Judson in February, was elected president of the institution at a meeting of the board of trustees on July 12.

DR. F. L. RANSOME, geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey since 1900, has accepted an appointment as professor of geology and head of the department at the University of Arizona.

DR. ERNEST ANDERSON, for the past three years professor of general chemistry in the University of Nebraska, has been appointed professor of chemistry and chairman of the department of chemistry in the University of Arizona.

DR. GEORGE W. PUCHER has been appointed associate in the department of biological chemistry, University of Buffalo Medical School. He will retain a consulting and research connection with the Buffalo General Hospital.

DR. V. H. YOUNG has resigned the headship of the department of botany and plant pathology at the University of Idaho to become head of the department of plant pathology at the University of Arkansas.

IN the department of anatomy at Cornell University Medical College the following promotions have been made: Robert C. Chambers to professor of microscopic anatomy; Charles V. Morrill to associate professor of anatomy, and George N. Papanicolaou to assistant professor of anatomy. Dr. Louis Hausman is appointed an instructor in anatomy.

DR. J. READ, professor of organic chemistry since

1916 in the University of Sydney, has been appointed to the chair of chemistry in the University of St. Andrews.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AND PROFESSOR SCHAEFFER

THE Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee has dismissed five professors from the university, among them, Dr. A. A. Schaeffer, professor of zoology. The dismissal of Professor Schaeffer seems especially significant inasmuch as he is president of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors, and this chapter had made request for an investigation of the case of Professor Sprowls, who was dismissed from the university some months ago. No satisfactory reason for the dismissal of Professor Sprowls has been given, it may be mentioned incidentally, but it is believed that a certain opposition to his introduction of the evolutionary point of view into his educational work contributed to the result. Professor Schaeffer was at the Marine Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington in the Gulf of Mexico when dismissed. Immediately before leaving Knoxville in June the president discussed with him a special appropriation for his laboratory and was far from showing any dissatisfaction with him. The action of the president seems to be a direct challenge to the American Association of University Professors to show whether it has any potency. Meanwhile the loss of Professor Schaeffer to the University of Tennessee is bound to be the gain of some other university.

CHAS. B. DAVENPORT

THE STREAMS OF LONG ISLAND

THE interesting difference between the east and west banks of the streams of Long Island has been the basis of suggestive comment by contributors to SCIENCE. Jennings,¹ who doubts that the westerly deflection of the streams by the earth's rotation is most largely responsible for the steeper west bank and the imperceptibly sloping eastern one, is more inclined to attribute these conditions to the cumulative effects of wind and wind-borne materials, particularly after consideration of the geological history of the region. Hayes² states that because of the earth's rotation, longitudinal rivers in the northern hemisphere erode their right banks, whether they flow north or south, while Davis³ recalls that in the plateau of Launemozen, at the northern base of the Pyrenees, the valley sides facing against the wind are

the steeper, while in Long Island they face with the wind. French physiographers explained the former condition not as a consequence of the earth's rotation, but as the result of the stronger action of rain driven by westerly winds. In this case it is of course conceivable that drifting materials would be held in quantity by the denser vegetation of the moister stream margin only when other conditions enabled vegetation to be present in a quantity sufficient to retain it, and to prevent the erosion of that bank. This presumably finds additional explanation in the downward sweep of the winds.

Following Jennings's suggestion, I have studied cross sections of the banks of four small streams of Long Island, two near Oyster Bay, one below Mineola and one emptying near Glen Cove. Comparative cross sections of the steeper west bank and the eastern one indicated that pebbles of a size easily movable by the wind were by far the most common in the west bank, their place being taken by coarse gravel in the eastern one. In these sections, the black topsoil above the yellow sandy clay was in the western bank usually 2-3 times the thickness of the smaller deposit in the eastern bank. Further, faint lines of stratification could be seen as indicated by coarser vegetable remains. These facts indicate that the cumulative effects of wind and vegetation upon wind-borne materials explain in large part at least the steeper west bank of Long Island streams.

N. M. GRIER

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Earth Evolution and its Facial Expression. By WILLIAM HERBERT HOBBS. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1921, 178 pages.

THIS interesting and suggestive book deals with major problems in advanced dynamical and theoretical geology. It represents the results of a long period of thought and study on the part of the author of the "fundamental questions of theoretical geology which are in one way or another connected with the growth of continents and mountains." The book is divided into fourteen chapters.

In Chapter I the field of cosmogony is traversed in a brief and general way. Reference is made to the conceptions of Greek, Latin and other philosophers of antiquity. The views of early modern thinkers are considered, together with the origin and rise of the nebular hypothesis. The author regards the objections to this hypothesis as fatal, and adheres to the planetesimal hypothesis, although in the development of his conceptions he departs markedly from certain postulates of that hypothesis.

¹ Jennings, O. E., SCIENCE, LV, p. 291.

² Hayes, E., SCIENCE, LV, p. 567.

³ Davis, W. M., SCIENCE, LV, p. 478.