

In the past few years there has seemed to be a need for what may be termed the problem viewpoint of research in soil problems. The different divisions of work are so woven together that it takes a meeting bringing together men from the different branches of science, pure and applied, to adequately discuss the problems involved. We are requested to state that those who can present papers on subjects that should come before this meeting as well as those who have subjects or speakers to suggest should communicate with H. A. Noyes, chairman of the agricultural and food division of the American Chemical Society, in care of the New Rochelle Research Laboratories, New Rochelle, New York.

THE one hundred and twenty-eighth meeting of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, it is announced, will be held on August 20 to 31 in Ontario and Quebec. With the cooperation of the Minister of Mines of these two provinces and of the members of the Canadian and American Institutes of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the vast mineral wealth of Canada will be placed on exhibition. Petroleum and gas will be among the principal general subjects of the technical sessions, which are to be held in Montreal. The geology of Santa Elena oil fields, Ecuador, will be discussed by Joseph H. Sinclair, of New York, and Professor Charles P. Berkey, of Columbia University. Other papers will be presented by A. F. Meston, of New York, and Oliver U. Bradley, of Muskogee, Okla.

EARL G. STURDEVANT, who has served as professor of physical chemistry at Western University, London, Canada, since 1920, resigned this position on June 1 to accept a position with the Western Electric Co. as development engineer. Dr. Sturdevant is working on the manufacture of insulated wire.

JOHN H. SCHMIDT has resigned his instructorship in organic chemistry at the University of Wisconsin to accept a position as research chemist with the Redmanol Chemical Products Co., Chicago, Ill.

W. C. GANGLOFF, formerly research chemist with the National Aniline and Chemical Co., is now chief chemist with Dextro Products, Inc., Buffalo, N. Y.

THE public health service of Spain has appointed the following three physicians to the fellowships offered by the Rockefeller Foundation for a visit of inspection and study in America: Drs. Fernández Besones, inspector for Salamanca province; Ortiz de Landazuri, of the central sanitary brigade, and Fuego, the bacteriologist of the public health headquarters at Vigo.

DR. C. E. KENNETH MEES, director of the research laboratory of the Eastman Kodak Company, sailed

for England on July 6 for an extended business trip. Dr. S. E. Sheppard has been made acting director of the laboratory.

PROFESSOR RALPH G. WRIGHT, head of the department of chemistry of Rutgers College and the State University of New Jersey, has been granted a year's leave of absence. Ernest Little, acting professor of chemistry at the university, will be the acting head of the chemistry department during Dr. Wright's absence.

LEAVE of absence has been granted to Professor Cossar Ewart, Regius professor of natural history in the University of Edinburgh, to enable him to accept the invitation of the government of Australia to attend the Pan-Pacific Science Congress in Australia. His recent researches into the origin of the merino sheep and on the evolution of wool have been of great practical value, and he has been specially invited to contribute to the proceedings of the congress.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE student body, alumni and friends have decided to establish a research endowment foundation at the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery. It is hoped to raise at least \$100,000 to make the foundation permanent. It is announced that a scholarship in pathology, valued at about \$18,000, has been raised during the past year, and that the alumni association is now engaged in raising a European scholarship of \$20,000, which will enable the college to send at least one student to Vienna, Glasgow or Edinburgh each year.

FOLLOWING on the death of his widow, the estate of the late Professor Campbell Brown has been handed over to the University of Liverpool under the conditions stated in his will. These provide that: (1) A Campbell Brown chair of industrial chemistry shall be established, the first professor to specialize in oils, fats and waxes. In the first instance the salary shall be £1,000 per annum. (2) The income of a sum of £5,000 shall be placed at the disposal of the professor for the upkeep of his department. (3) A Campbell Brown fellowship, value £150 per annum, and (4) The balance to be used for scholarships.

WITH a view to improving the health conditions of the Japanese people, Baron Masuda and Baron Mitsui have each contributed 200,000 yen to the Keio University to establish a food research laboratory in connection with the university hospital. This food laboratory will be the first of its kind in Japan. Dr. Kenta Omori, the head of the research work, and Dr. Z. Kawakami will soon be sent by the Keio University authorities to America and then to Europe for the

purpose of studying similar undertakings in those countries.

PROMOTIONS to associate professorships in the faculties of the University of Chicago are announced as follows: Georges Van Biesbroeck and Storrs B. Barrett, in astronomy; Edward S. Robinson and Forrest A. Kingsbury, in psychology; Arthur J. Dempster, in physics; Warder C. Allee, in zoology; Esmond R. Long, in pathology; Emery T. Filbey and Guy T. Buswell, in the College of Education.

MR. G. C. STEWARD, fellow of Gonville and Caius College, has been appointed fellow and lecturer in mathematics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### PROPOSALS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE WISENT

It seems to be unfortunately only too true, occasional contrary reports notwithstanding, that the European bison or wisent (*Bos bonasus* L., *Bison europaeus* Ow.) of which prior to the great war about 700 lived in the Lithuanian forest of Bjeloviesh, near Grodno, has been exterminated there. The fate of the wisents that lived in northwestern Caucasia is unknown, but in all probability this herd no longer exists and of the herd formerly living in the estates of Prince Pless, Upper Silesia, only three remain. Thus, when summed up, no herd exists any longer, only some fifty head, which are scattered widely in zoological gardens or preserves.

Dr. Kurt Priemel, director of the Municipal Zoological Garden in Frankfurt and an expert on the matter, suggests that by a systematic cooperation of all persons interested the wisent may be permanently saved or at least preserved for many a year to come. Dr. Priemel proposes that the methods so successfully pursued by the American Bison Society be applied to preserve the wisent. To do this, however, the cooperation of all interests, German and foreign, is indispensable; only thus can systematic breeding be carried out, the necessary funds raised and general interest for the plan gained. It is proposed, therefore, to found a Society for the Preservation of the Wisent. Statistical data have been made up and a card catalogue arranged in which information regarding all the known living wisents has been compiled. The most important problem for the new society, when formed, will be to endeavor to increase the number of animals by systematic breeding, an interchange of individuals from various sources being also considered. As it is, with one exception, all the available stock derive from the Bjeloviesh herd. This exception is a bull of the Caucasus breed, which has always

played an important part in reproducing the race and will continue to do so, as long as possible. The animal was presented to Karl Hagenbeck in 1907 by the Czar.

Should systematic breeding produce satisfactory results, and successful experience of many zoological gardens tend to encourage this hope, in twelve to fifteen years small herds of wisents may be turned loose in extensive preserves. These preserves should offer, as far as possible, variegated topography, climate and forest formations. A beginning has been made by Count Arnim-Boitzenburg, of Boitzenburg-Uckermark, province of Brandenburg, who has introduced the wisent herd formerly owned by Hagenbeck upon his estates. It is to be hoped that the dangers of inbreeding may be obviated and a healthy development assured.

THEODOR G. AHRENS, PH.D.

STAATLICHE STELLE FÜR NATURDENKMALPFLEGE,  
BERLIN-SCHÖNEBERG

## THE AMERICAN EDUCATOR AND SCIENTIST

THE title-page of the recently issued "The American Educator and Scientist, a Vocational Blue Book," bears the slogan: "Representation a Criterion of Distinction." After glancing through the text one is tempted to wonder what is the criterion of representation. Among the many who are not "represented" are the president of Harvard University and the president of the National Academy of Sciences.

Nothing is specified regarding the life work of James Furman Kemp except that he is manager of the New York Botanical Garden. Charles Whitman Cross is given all the credit for authorship of *Quantitative Classification of Ingenious Rocks*, although in the next entry but one Whitman Cross is described as author of *Quantitative Classification of Ingenious Rocks*.

This work is one of twelve blue books issued annually by the same publishers. The series includes *The American Elite* and *Sociologist*. The price of each volume is \$10.

OMISSUS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Grundzüge der Paläontologie*, II Abt., Vertebrata. By K. A. VON ZITTEL. Neuarbeitet von F. Broili und Max Schlosser. R. Oldenbourg, München u. Berlin. 4<sup>e</sup> Auflage, 1923.

THE new edition of this classic text-book will be a great boon to all workers and teachers in vertebrate paleontology. There are unfortunately no compre-