

THE twenty-second Flemish Medical Congress was held at Antwerp on August 11 and 12. The following papers were read: The physiology of the heart, by Professor H. Zwaardemaker, of Utrecht; extra-cardial influences on the heart, by Professor E. de Somer and Dr. P. Maeyer of Ghent; intracardiac arrhythmia, by Dr. S. de Boer of Amsterdam; pharmacodynamics and clinical administration of cardiac drugs, by Dr. U. G. Bijlsma and Dr. M. J. Roessingh of Utrecht; radiology of the heart, by Dr. M. Pere-mans of Antwerp; heart disease in pediatrics, by Dr. J. Lebeer of Antwerp.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

FORTY-FIVE square blocks of Berkeley's most beautiful homes on the campus of the University of California up the hill slopes, north and east, were devastated by the fire on September 17, which is said to be the worst experienced by any California city since the San Francisco disaster of 1906. The fire was one of a series of forest, brush and grass fires, fanned by strong north winds and fed by undergrowth baked to a tinder by the prolonged summer. Such fires raged in nearly every county in Northern California. The buildings of the university were not harmed though it seemed at one time as if they would be destroyed. The homes of more than half the faculty and seven fraternity and sorority houses were burned. A shift in the wind then turned the course of the flames back over the burned area and many threatened buildings were saved.

AT the University of Buffalo instruction in the sciences fundamental to dentistry will be given hereafter in the departments of anatomy, biochemistry, pathology, pharmacology and physiology of the School of Medicine. To care for these increased responsibilities in the department of anatomy, of which Professor Wayne J. Atwell is the head, the following additions to the staff have been made: Dr. Rufus R. Humphrey, formerly of Cornell University, associate; Walter F. Greene, of Yale University, associate, and Ernest B. Hanan, of the University of Missouri, instructor.

THE work of preparing future executives for the oil industry will be undertaken by New York University. The course will be under the direction of Professor Ernest R. Lilley and credits toward a university degree will be given.

PROFESSOR Z. P. METCALF, head of the department of entomology and zoology of the North Carolina State College, has been appointed director of instructional work in the school of agriculture.

WILLIAM A. NEWTON, B.S. (McGill), Ph.D. (Calif-

ornia), has been appointed assistant professor of botany at Pomona College. George M. Turner, specialist in petroleum, will be next year visiting professor of chemistry.

ARTHUR LL. HUGHES, research professor of physics in Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, has been elected Wayman Crow professor of physics at Washington University, St. Louis, to succeed Professor Arthur H. Compton, who goes to the University of Chicago.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE NEEDS OF GERMAN SCIENTIFIC MEN

IN connection with certain scientific work, it was incumbent on me to make a special trip to Germany this summer to confer personally with one of the most eminent and renowned scientists of that land, who was professor of physiology in a famous German university. I had never been to Germany before and had never had the privilege of meeting the distinguished man whom I was on my way to see. Indeed, we had little in common, because our primary interests were in different realms of science. As soon as he heard of my arrival in the little university town where he lived, he invited me and my son (who accompanied me on my journey) to have afternoon tea at his home, whither we repaired at the appointed hour. It was a charming old house which spoke everywhere of refinement and culture and comfort. The professor and his wife met us at the threshold and bade us welcome in the most hospitable manner. On the table at which we sat down there was a little black bread and one or two unappetizing dishes. My host apologized for the meagre repast, saying simply that nowadays they were reduced to great extremities for food. His wife added that they had had no butter or milk or eggs for months, but occasionally they contrived to get a little meat, usually horseflesh, and sometimes a bit of coarse fish. I asked many questions about the domestic situation, but they were reluctant to talk about it. A girl named Marta waited on the table. She had lived with them twenty-five years or more, and each week she came to her mistress and implored her to reduce her wages, although they were not enough to buy a postage stamp. Madame took me aside after tea and cautioned me not to converse with her husband about the present distracted state of affairs. Every penny they had saved in a lifetime was gone; they owned the house in which they lived, but could not afford to keep it in ordinary repair. Her husband could not bear to talk about the desperate situation. His only relief from day to day was to try to bury himself in his work and shut out the ever-present fear of impending disaster as