APPOINTMENT of an unpaid commission to supervise the organization of medical research workers was recommended by M. Douglas Flattery, of Boston, chairman of the special committee on medical research, during a conference with President Coolidge on October 9. Mr. Flattery also recommended the enactment of legislation for a national study of preventive medicine. This is in line with a recommendation made to President Harding about two years ago, which was discussed and approved by the cabinet. At that time President Harding referred the matter to Brigadier General Sawyer, his personal physician, to make such other recommendations as might seem suitable to him. The plan included the organization of all scientific workers in such colleges and laboratories as have laboratory equipment together with chemists, physicists, biologists, bacteriologists, physiologists and other scientific men working in related fields.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

SUIT was filed in the circuit court on October 1, asking approval of the plans to raze the old Rush Medical College buildings at Harrison and Wood Streets, and to erect a $400,000 building to be known as the Rawson Clinical Laboratories, for which Frederick H. Rawson donated the sum of $300,000. The University of Chicago, according to the plan, will take over the property and build the new laboratory. A contract between the college and the university has been tentatively adopted, pending the approval of the court. A program which provides for the expenditure of $5,300,000, gifts to the university for the advancement of medical education, is to be carried out, the bill states, and includes the building of a hospital of 200 beds on the university campus.

THE president of Cuba has issued an order establishing a university governing assembly. It is to consist of thirty professors, thirty alumni and thirty students, and this body will have charge of the management of the university.

DR. WILLIAM M. MARRIOTT, chief of the department of diseases of children, Washington University Medical School, St. Louis, has been appointed dean of the school to succeed Dr. Nathaniel Allison, who becomes professor of orthopedic surgery at Harvard University Medical School, Boston.

PROFESSOR C. W. PARMELEE has been made head of the department of Ceramic Engineering at the University of Illinois, where he has been professor since 1916.

PROFESSOR J. W. MCCOLLOCH, of the Kansas State College, has been named acting head of the entomology department at the college during the absence of Professor G. A. Dean, who has a year's leave of absence.

DR. ALFRED S. ROMER has been appointed associate professor of vertebrate paleontology in the University of Chicago. Dr. Romer has been working in the American Museum of Natural History and the department of anatomy of New York University.

EDWIN B. POWERS, associate professor of anatomy at the College of Medicine of the University of Tennessee, at Memphis, is on leave for the year to take charge of the department of zoology of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

DR. CHARLES F. MARTIN has been appointed dean of McGill University faculty of medicine to succeed Dr. George E. Armstrong.

DR. GEORGE D. PORTER has been appointed head physical director at the University of Toronto to succeed Dr. James W. Barton, who resigned last spring.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE "FOLIAR RAY"

IN a recently published article entitled "The significance of the 'Foliar Ray' in the evolution of Herbaceous Angiosperms" it becomes evident that the authors now have their facts in hand. May we ask that they will credit us with the same elementary common sense. The difference of opinion seems to have resolved itself mostly into a question of terminology. In the original article by Messrs. Sinnott and Bailey which appeared in 1914 there was a fundamental misconception. The bands of "interfascicular parenchyma" found in herbaceous stems are decidedly not the homologues of the radial bands which subtend the leaf traces. The attribution of such an idea to "Jeffrey and his school" was a mistake and the demolition of this man of straw has wasted much valuable journal space.

The writer believes that our critics still fail to realize the importance of nodal modifications around incoming leaf traces where storage is initiated. That the thinning of the stem and consequent obliteration of the radial storage ray led to the vertical extension of the flanking portions is still our own belief. Incoming food must be stored somewhere, and if the old storage region is being obliterated through a reduction in the foliar parenchyma outside the trace what is more logical than to suppose that the flanking tissue played up to fit the new situation.

Conversion of tracheidal tissue into parenchyma on