

author, and whichever way I grab up the box—front or back. It is so long since I have had any of these boxes made that I do not remember the cost and, of course, that would vary with the locality and material. The boxes I have are made of good grade pasteboard, about 3/32 inch thick, covered at back and joints with black cloth. The only objection to such open boxes is dust, but if they are shut into glass-faced, unit-size, extra high, bookcase sections, the glass front lifting to a horizontal position and sliding back over the boxes, the dust difficulty is not great. Tiers of these, one above the other, enable one to see at a glance all his separates on a given subject. The units I have are about 12 inches deep, 15 inches high and each one will hold 9 of these boxes. They are known as book-case sections, outside dimensions 33 inches wide, 13 inches deep and 16¾ inches high, fitted with disappearing glass panel door with non-binding device, and were purchased from the Globe-Wernicke Co.

ERWIN F. SMITH

GERMAN SCIENTIFIC MEN AND RESEARCH

IN these sad times of political and economic depression in Germany, it is worth while to note the interest that is still maintained in research among the German scientists. The writer attended the third annual congress of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Vererbungswissenschaft* which met in Munich from September 24 to 27 of the present year. The meetings, which were held in the anatomical institute of the university, were presided over by Richard von Hertwig and were attended by three hundred scientists. The program was divided into three sections for the reading of papers—the botanical papers coming on Monday, the zoological on Tuesday, and the anthropological on Wednesday. For Thursday, an excursion was planned into the Tyrol.

More important to the writer than the papers read was the fact that, in such times as these, university professors were willing to spend from their salaries (about two hundred and fifty dollars a year) a sum equal to one or two weeks' income, and this at a time when the railroad fares were to be increased two and a half times before their return home. The excursion into the Tyrol was announced as fourth class on the railroad and most of those present had traveled fourth class to Munich. Black bread without butter at home, board seats on the railroad, but genetics at Munich! About one fourth of those in attendance were women, and women took part in the discussion. Among those present were such well known men as Hertwig and Goebel, of Munich; Spemann, of Freiburg; Lehmann, of Tübingen; Oehlkers, of Heidelberg; Kniep, of Würzburg; Renner, of Jena; Winkler, of Hamburg; Goldschmidt and the younger von Wettstein, of Dah-

lem; Buder, of Griefswald, and the elder von Wettstein, of Vienna.

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STUTTGART, GERMANY

QUOTATIONS

MINERVALS

A CONTRIBUTOR to the current number of *SCIENCE* named Welsh, writing from Nirvana (not the state of beatific freedom from earthly ills, but Nirvana in the State of Pennsylvania), makes reply to an earlier contributor, Professor Preston Slosson, in the matter of the meager salary of Professor Blank as compared with the income of John Smith, merchant. Professor Slosson, as protagonist for Professor Blank, shows that his client's salary can never be more than \$4,500 at 60, at which age he is retired on half pay—that is, less than \$2,500; while John Smith, merchant, starting at 15 years of age as an office boy at a salary which Professor Blank does not have until he is 25, is at 60 enjoying profits of \$25,000 a year as a retired stockholder, or ten times the income of Professor Blank. He holds that Professor Blank's salary ought to be at least \$8,000 or \$10,000. Otherwise the business world can always outbid the college for the services of able men. He contends that the leisure of the college man (which is supposed to justify a smaller money stipend) is a myth, and that while the pleasantness of his occupation is undeniable, if salaries were cut down on that account some of the wealthiest men should have a like cut, since they are "hardly happy" away from their offices and would enjoy a Latin professorship even less than a Latin professor would enjoy a seat in the Stock Exchange.

Moreover, while business has its millionaires, education has none. Its "minervals" are reckoned in thousands at most. Even the authors of text-books do not rise to great wealth. The economic value to society of the research scientist of the highest calibre may be many times that of the ablest banker or railroad president, and yet he may be enjoying but a small fraction of the latter's salary (witness Dr. Steinmetz's insignificant savings of a lifetime). It would be only a fitting recognition to pay these outstanding men of science as much at least as a first-class "realtor."

Comes now Mr. Welsh, of Nirvana, and says that John Smith, merchant, is far beyond the average merchant in his income; that of those who attempt business for themselves 90 per cent. are failures and are forced to drop out with their capital completely used up; that those who succeed are the most severely selected class in the world; that the average professors should be compared not with the successful business man but with his employes, and that they get