

recent knowledge relating to the prevention of diseases of the mouth and teeth. The prevalence and seriousness of these insidious disorders are widely recognized but not fully understood, and the faculty and alumni hold that the duty of preventing disease and promoting public health is fully as important as the relief and reparative treatment so universally needed. Dr. Arthur D. Black, dean of the Northwestern University Dental School, has been invited to give the first series of lectures. It is proposed to give the series in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

DR. MELVIN A. MARTIN, A.B. (Richmond), A.M. (Chicago), Ph.D. (Columbia), has become professor of psychology in Newcomb College, Tulane University, succeeding Dr. J. M. Fletcher.

ADDITIONS to the faculty of medicine at Dalhousie University, Halifax, N. S., as reported to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association are as follows: Clyde Holland and Margaret Chase have been appointed to full-time positions in the departments of anatomy and pathology, respectively; R. J. Bean, formerly on the staff of Western Reserve University, has been appointed associate professor of histology and embryology; Professor E. Gordon Young, associate professor of biochemistry at Western Ontario University, has been made head of the department of biochemistry; Professor J. N. Gowanloch has been appointed to succeed Professor J. A. Dawson in the department of biology. The recent affiliation of King's and Dalhousie has combined the teaching force of the two universities and Professor N. J. Symons, of King's, will become instructor in psychology to the medical classes, while Professor A. S. Walker, also of King's foundation, will lecture to the first year medical students on the "History of thought," a new subject.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE¹

I AM writing to thank you for your kind letter of September 21 last and your card of the twenty-fifth expressing sympathy for the catastrophe that has befallen this country. I have the good fortune to assure you that I am perfectly right myself and that none of the Japanese parasitologists have been affected by the misfortune, except Dr. Miyajima, whose house was burnt down. The zoological building of this university, which is of brick, cracked badly and part of it is being taken down, but no serious damage has been done to its contents, and the personnel are all safe. The central library and the buildings used by

¹ Letter to Professor Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois.

the faculties of law, economics and letters, as well as those of physiological chemistry and pharmacology, have been lost by fire, which originated in the laboratory of physiological chemistry immediately after the earthquake. Very little of their contents have been saved, owing to the general disorder that ensued and the lack of the necessary water, although those who were at the spot fought bravely. The central library, which contained many works never to be obtained again, and in which were deposited several memorial collections, including the working library of the Sanscrit scholar Max Mueller, is a great loss for the university, and it will take years to have a similar one again.

At the time of the earthquake I was staying with my wife and family at a country place about fifty miles north of Tokyo, where the shock was bad enough, but not so bad as to damage the little house I was living in nor any in the neighborhood. People there told me they did not remember a similar shock for the past forty years. Towards the evening of that day, September 1, I could see at a far distance reflections of what I thought to be flame, and the same reflections were seen somewhat altered the next day, but I had no idea of what was going on in Tokyo. Then came the news that all Tokyo was in flame, that martial law was proclaimed, that nobody could get into the city owing to the disorder that prevailed there, etc., etc., and there was no means to send or receive information. The dreadful suspense we were compelled to be in was trying in the extreme. I, however, managed to get back to Tokyo with my family on the 6th, and to our great relief we found our own house and those we left in it all safe. My time has since been taken up entirely by meetings and conferences of various sorts in connection with the work of reconstruction for the university. Half of Tokyo is now a city of barracks and sheds, and the government have decided to build only temporary structures for themselves for ten years hence. I am, however, hoping to see Tokyo a better city than it used to be after some years.

The center of this destructive earthquake was in Sagami Sea, the home of so many interesting forms of life, and comes very close to filling a gap in the series of similar centers in the past, which form what has been called the "outer earthquake zone" of Japan, as you will see from the enclosed chart prepared before the late disaster. You may perhaps wonder why we do not abandon a country so often visited by earthquakes, but I think familiarity breeds contempt in this case, too. We are, however, taking lessons from our bitter experience and going to set up stronger structures for the university in the future.

I appreciate your kind consideration in connection with Mr. Morishita's paper. He has lately been in-

vited by the Formosan Government to serve as parasitologist, but will stay in Tokyo till next year.

With best thanks for your sympathy, I am

Yours very truly,

SEITARO GOTO

IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY,

TOKYO, JAPAN, OCTOBER 30, 1923

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER TO DR. DAVID STARR

JORDAN

No doubt you have had details from the press, but in case it may be of interest to see how quickly the American ships got started for relief we might mention that, of the two divisions (each six ships; squadron leader making 13 in all) of Destroyers, that known as the "38th" reached here from Dairen, Chinwangtao, etc., on the fifth to seventh, and Division No. 45, from Tsingtao got here about the eighth or ninth. The transport Merritt, from Manila, delayed by a typhoon, got here on the fifteenth, and the Meigs on the seventeenth—with large quantities of food, blankets and hospital supplies, etc. The destroyers practically stripped themselves of their own stores besides what extras they had been able to bring.

The Japanese have been greatly moved by the swift and open-handed policy of America and other nations; this has meant much for the morale of the nation as well as for their physical relief.

There are nearly 55,000 people still living in barracks in the chief centers for these temporary structures in Tokyo—parks, palace and temple grounds and the like, from recent official statistics. Problems of clothing, housing and employment are most difficult at present. There are over 6,000 in the little barrack village—long rows of frame (one-room divisions)—right in Hibiya Park here. You would be surprised to see the cheerful aspect of their neat little "streets"—the one where they have opened most of their shops having strings of gay lanterns suspended overhead across the street at close intervals.

We hope that the little quakes that have occurred since September 1 have not been exaggerated in the press abroad. They have not amounted to anything, being just the minor adjustments to be expected after the main shock, except perhaps for yesterday's which is said to have been independent, but not at all serious.

When we consider the courage and hard work to be seen here on every hand, and the history of San Francisco after 1906, we are sure that it will not be long before that history will be repeated here. Even now no one who may have been planning to come here need change plans.

T. INAMURU

TOKYO, NOVEMBER 6, 1923

The Imperial University of Tokyo lost its entire

library, which, as I understand, though encased in a fire-proof building, had its roof lifted by an explosion in a neighboring medical school. There were between 500,000 and 700,000 volumes, many of them of ancient Japanese literature and irreplaceable.

Professor Kenzo Takahashi is now visiting the universities of America and Europe with a view to securing donations for this library. It is to be hoped that all our universities and scientific societies will respond to this appeal. Any person or institution which may wish to send one or more volumes may do so either through Professor Takahashi, or by sending them directly to Mr. T. Komatsu, director of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, Market St., San Francisco, who will forward them without charge to Japan.

DAVID STARR JORDAN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

THE SELECTION OF SUBJECTS FOR RESEARCH

IN the August 10 issue of SCIENCE, Dr. Eugene C. Bingham gives a discussion of this subject, with particular reference to subjects for the university. I should like to add a few words with reference to a selection for the younger students.

After stating the importance of having research problems of some value, "If the result will not be worth publication, the work is not worth attempting," he goes on to make the point that "the particular problem is of little moment to the student." For "one tiny problem quickly branches out into more fields than any one mind can compass." It is a little difficult to see how Dr. Bingham introduced philology into the study of the flow of matter, but that merely shows that Dr. Bingham has the imagination to see the connection. Another might fall down in a similar research problem, because he could not see it.

The young student can not ordinarily see such a connection, and it may be for this reason that it has come to be common practice to give them the multitude of varied courses, instead of starting them learning research. But I think the cause is more in the subjects selected. The professor is mostly interested in the fields that have been extensively studied. He wants to carry research one step further in the well-trodden road, in such directions as radioactivity, or isotopes, to mention two examples from Mr. Bingham's article. To go ahead with such subjects it is necessary first to learn the work of other leading men. Students in our colleges find it impossible to get ready to accomplish anything in such a line before graduation.

Turning to the industrial field, we find many lines which have never received the attention of a single intellect of the highest grade. There are plenty of real problems with results that would be worth pub-