

DR. J. A. MURRAY, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, delivered the first of four public lectures on cancer at St. Thomas's Hospital on February 21.

THE laboratory for research in colloid chemistry and physics, which has been founded at the University of Manchester, England, by merchants of the county, was formally opened on January 23. The laboratory is named after Thomas Graham, and has five rooms equipped for research work. Professor D. C. Henry, lecturer in chemistry at the university, is in charge.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the former laboratory of Professor Röntgen in the Physical Institute of the University of Würzburg has been named the Röntgen Memorial Room. A large part of his original apparatus is still set up, and most of it was made by him. Here are the first röntgen tubes, and the original photographs that led to his discovery. A cabinet contains the medals and other presentations received by Röntgen from the Nobel Foundation and various institutions. By his work table is a complete collection of his publications. There is also a bust of Röntgen in the room.

GEORGE HERMANN QUINCKE, one of the most distinguished of German experimental physicists, long professor at Heidelberg, died on January 13 in his ninetieth year.

JEAN M. E. STEPHAN, for many years director of the Marseilles Observatory, died on December 31 at the age of eighty-six.

CAPTAIN T. H. TIZARD, F.R.S., formerly assistant hydrographer to the British Admiralty, died on February 17, aged eighty-four years.

THE Optical Society of America has planned to publish a complete translation of the third edition of Helmholtz's *Handbuch der physiologischen Optik*, edited by James P. C. Southall, professor of physics in Columbia University. The work will be issued in three volumes approximately in the same style as the original German edition, with the same illustrations, plates, etc. The first volume is now in press and will probably be ready by June, 1924. The other volumes will follow as soon as they can be prepared. The edition is limited to one thousand copies. The price will not exceed \$7 a volume. In order to insure getting all three volumes, orders should be sent without delay to Professor F. K. Richtmyer, managing editor of the *Journal of the Optical Society and Review of Scientific Instruments*, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

THE United States government has appealed from the decision of the United States District Court which

was rendered adversely recently by Judge Hugh M. Morris in its suit for the return of numerous German dye patents by the Chemical Foundation, Inc. The appeal is signed by James M. Beck, solicitor-general of the United States; Attorney-general Daugherty and other federal counsel. Seventeen allegations of error are made in the appeal, which is general rather than specific, and concludes: "The court erred in each and every one of its conclusions of law and fact contained in its opinion in this case made a part of the record."

UNDER the auspices of the New Haven Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a get-together meeting of the engineers of Connecticut will be held on March 18, at the Hotel Garde, New Haven. Following a dinner at 6:30 p. m., a meeting will be held which will be addressed by Dr. Ira L. Hollis, president of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, on "The part that production has played in the permanency of nations," and by John L. Davis, of New Britain, on "America—the land of opportunity."

A PLEDGE of \$5,000 toward the preparation and publication of the International Critical Tables of Physical and Chemical Constants has been made by the Western Electric Company.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

CONTRACTS for the new science building at St. Stephen's College, Annandale-on-Hudson, have been let by the board of trustees. The building will cost about \$120,000. Excavation for the science building and also for a new dormitory will be started as soon as the frost is out of the ground. It is expected that the cornerstone will be laid on commencement day.

MRS. ROBERT L. REA, of Chicago, widow of Dr. Robert L. Rea, for 30 years surgeon-in-chief of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has given to Northwestern University medical school \$100,000 with which to establish a professorship in anatomy.

THE trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation have offered the University of Oxford a gift of £75,000 for the development of the department of biochemistry.

LORD GLANELY, in resigning from the office of president of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff, has supplemented his previous donations to the college funds by a gift of £12,500, bringing his contributions to a total of £65,000.

THE Bausch and Lomb Optical Company of Rochester, N. Y., has recently presented to the Department of Physics in Columbia University a col-

lection of optical apparatus and machinery, for instruction and research, particularly in applied optics, optometry and physiological optics. On February 29 an exhibition of the apparatus was held in Fayerweather Hall. Mr. Adolph Lomb himself was present and also Mr. Max Poser, of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company. President Butler accepted the gift on behalf of the trustees of the university and Dr. Herbert E. Ives, president of the Optical Society of America, delivered an address on modern progress in physiological optics.

DR. PHILIP FRANKLIN, instructor in mathematics at Harvard, has been appointed to fill the vacancy in the mathematics department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology caused by the death of Professor Joseph Lipka.

THEODORE H. DILLON, professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed to the chair of public utility management in the Graduate School of Business Administration of Harvard University.

DR. J. E. HOLLOWAY, known for his work on the ferns of New Zealand, has been appointed lecturer on botany in the University of Otago, Dunedin.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE PROPORTIONS OF DEFECTIVES FROM THE NORTHWEST AND FROM THE SOUTH- EAST OF EUROPE

THE report of the Committee on Selective Immigration of the Eugenics Committee of the United States of America, published extensively in the newspapers, and recently by the *Eugenical News* (February), contains the following statements:

Dr. Laughlin's studies bring out another very striking and important fact, *viz.*, that immigrants from northwestern Europe on the whole contribute far less in proportion to our alien socially inadequate institutional population than do those from southeastern Europe.

A percentage limitation based on the census of 1890 would therefore not only reduce (1) the inflow of unskilled "cheap" labor, but would also greatly reduce (2) the number of immigrants of the lower grades of intelligence and (3) of immigrants who are making excessive contribution to our feeble-minded, insane, criminal and other socially inadequate classes. Percentage limitation based on the 1890 census, therefore, is the simplest, most logical and most effective means readily at hand for accomplishing all three of these very necessary things.

The proposition numbered (3) is a deduction from the first sentence quoted, but it is an illegitimate and incorrect one; and the first sentence quoted is enlightening only when the precise conditions on which it is based are understood. The proportion of "in-

adequates" contributed by northwestern Europe on the one hand, by southeastern Europe on the other hand, depends on the relative numbers present from particular subdivisions of those regions. The different subdivisions give extremely different proportions of inadequates. Thus, from northwest Europe, according to Laughlin, the proportion of inadequates yielded by Ireland is almost twice that yielded by Germany. It is obvious that the proportions contributed by northwestern Europe will be extremely diverse, depending upon whether the immigrants from that region are preponderatingly of such a type as that coming from Ireland, or of such as that coming from Germany. Parallel statements may be made for the diverse groups coming from southeastern Europe; Austria-Hungary, for example, shows the smallest proportion of defectives yielded by any of the major sources of immigration.

Now, the relative numbers of the different nationalities present in our European-born population of 1890 is extremely different from that of 1910; so much so that deductions based merely upon the relative proportions from northwest and southeast Europe in the two cases yield erroneous conclusions. If Laughlin's "quota fulfilments" are accepted as representative for the diverse groups,<sup>1</sup> the change to the 1890 percentage basis does not, other things being equal, tend to reduce the number of institutional socially inadequates. This is due mainly to the fact that in 1890 Ireland, which yields much the highest proportion of inadequates of any of the major groups, constituted in 1890 twice as great a proportion of our European-born population as it did in 1910. Laughlin's figures, if taken as typical, enable us to compute the respective numbers of institutional inadequates that would be contributed by two equal European-born populations constituted one as in 1910, the other as in 1890. I have carried out this computation; the results are set forth in the volume of hearings recently published by the congressional committee on immigration (pp. 512-518). It is there shown that on the basis of Laughlin's findings a European-born population constituted as in 1890 would contribute practically exactly the same number of institutional defectives as an equal European-born population constituted as in 1910. The proportions of the different kinds of defectives would be diverse in the 1890 combination; the number of insane would be 5.7 per cent. greater; of dependent 57.1 per cent. greater; of epileptic 3.0 per cent. greater; while the

<sup>1</sup> Laughlin's data and conclusions have been subjected to destructive criticism by R. R. Lutz (Hearings of the Committee on Immigration 1924, pages 250-283), and John M. Gillman (*Ibid.*, pp. 540-550), but these criticisms seem not to affect directly the data as to the relative proportions of defectives derived from different European-born groups.