

reestablish the good name of Italy in this matter. The London *Times* says: "Complaints have often appeared in the English Press about the wholesale destruction of insectivorous song birds on the Italian hills and mountains. In the autumn months, when visitors are passing through on their way south, an enormous number of birds, mostly chaffinches, red stars, warblers, and the like, are taken for eating and other purposes. They are generally trapped into nets and the so-called *roccoli*—semi-circular pergola-like arrangements of wooden stakes, under a *camouflage* of creepers and bushes. The new law might have been more radical, but it does something to lessen the evil. It forbids altogether the vertical nets which are the most destructive on the mountain passes; it prohibits the snares and imposes several limitations and restrictions on the use of the *roccoli* and other similar appliances. It is to be hoped that gradually the scope of the law will be widened and strengthened, but the legislature thinks it advisable to proceed slowly in the matter, as in some of the northern valleys, where there is a poor population, bird catching is one of the ways of getting a living."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

By the will of the late Dr. Plimmon H. Dudley, formerly steel expert of the New York Central Railroad, the chief part of his estate is left to Yale University for the establishment of a professorship "which shall be devoted to research and instruction in connection with the history and development of the science of railway service." "The bequest is intended," wrote Dr. Dudley, "to aid further in the establishment on a permanent basis of 'the Dudley chair, service of railroads,' provided by Lucy B. Dudley, my late wife. . . . It is likewise my wish that Yale University shall accept contributions from other individuals and corporations for the benefit of the aforesaid professorship. I also expressly desire that the research work in which I have been engaged for many years be continued and in particular the work in connection with the development and improvement of designs of rails, roadbeds and cross ties."

DR. AND MRS. ARCHIBALD CHURCH, of Chicago, have given \$100,000 towards the endowment and maintenance of a medical library for Northwestern University. Dr. Church is a neurologist and has been a member of the staff of Northwestern University Medical School for thirty-two years.

LADY STRATHCONA has given \$120,000 to McGill University to endow the department of zoology.

THE dedication of the new group of medical buildings of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Illinois and the University of Illinois took

place on March 6. Dr. William L. Noble, president of the board of trustees of the University of Illinois, presided. Addresses were given by the president of the American Medical Association, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur; Dr. Frederick G. Banting, of the University of Toronto, Canada; Judge Chauncey H. Jenkins and the governor of Illinois.

DR. WILLIAM FRANCIS GAY SWAN, who resigned his position as assistant demonstrator in physics at the University of Sheffield in 1913 to become chief of the physical division of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism at the Carnegie Institution in Washington and who was appointed professor of physics at the University of Minnesota in 1918, has been appointed professor of physics at Yale University.

DR. JEAN OLIVER, associate professor of pathology at Stanford University Medical School, has been promoted to full professorship.

DR. C. K. INGOLD has been appointed professor of organic chemistry at the University of Leeds as from October 1 next on the retirement of Professor J. B. Cohen.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ON CONCENTRATION OF VITAMIN B

EFFORTS to isolate the so-called "Vitamin B" have thus far failed. A successful beginning in this direction was made by Osborne and Wakeman, who separated from yeast a material in the form of a dry powder which possessed much greater potency than the original yeast. Further concentration of the Osborne and Wakeman material had previously been unsuccessful. We have now prepared a material which is from five to ten times more potent than that of Osborne and Wakeman. The material can be obtained either from the Osborne and Wakeman material or directly from dried yeast. It is prepared by precipitation with a solution of barium hydroxide. As a rule, the barium precipitate contains from 30 to 50 per cent. of the total vitamin present in the solution. However, the material obtained from the precipitate is from five to ten times as powerful as the original material.

The present note is prompted by the article of W. Lash Miller published in *SCIENCE* on February 29, 1924. In this article Miller reports on the use of barium hydroxide for the preparation and separation of the individual components of Wilders' Bios.

The details of our work will soon appear in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

P. A. LEVENE,

B. J. C. VAN DER HOEVEN

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