sites and which are known to be of importance to cultivators of cotton. It is made a condition of the grant that the university should admit cotton research scholars and their assistants to the laboratories of the university. The university is also asked to deal with inquiries from scientific advisers to cotton-growers, and for this purpose should have available such publications as would be likely to give the required information. The council of the university has expressed its gratification at the offer, and has accepted the grant. In the department of botany Mr. Samuel Williams will undertake investigations on plant diseases under the direction of Dr. Wilfrid Robinson, who has for some years past been engaged in research on plant pathology. In the zoological department Mr. R. A. Wardle will supervise the investigations in entomology.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

BY the will of Alexander F. Morrison, of the California bar, a bequest of $1,000,000 is left to the University of California.

HERBERT W. RICE, of Providence, R. I., has given to Brown University a scholarship which will yield annually $700 for graduate work in chemistry.

BY the will of William Prescott, of Liverpool, £20,000 is given to the Liverpool University for the founding of a chair of agriculture.

PROFESSOR ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD, hon. D.Sc. (Manchester), hon. LL.D. (St. Andrews), fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and professor of applied mathematics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, has been appointed professor of philosophy at Harvard University. He will begin his work in September, 1924, and will give courses on metaphysics, logic and the philosophy of science.

AT the Stanford University Medical School the following promotions will be made for the year 1924–25: Dr. Jean Oliver from associate professor in pathology to professor; Dr. Edward B. Towne from assistant professor of surgery to associate professor; Dr. George deF. Barnett from assistant clinical professor of medicine to associate professor; Maurice L. Tainter from assistant in pharmacology to instructor.

KENNETH C. HEALD, chief of the gas and oil section of the United States Geological Survey, has been appointed associate professor of geology at Yale University with assignment to the Sheffield Scientific School. The following promotions from assistant to associate professor have been made: Ralph G. Van Name, chemistry; Edwin Hoyt Lockwood, mechanical engineering; Carlton T. Bishop, structural engineering, and Charles A. A. Bennett, philosophy.

DISCUSSION

EXTENSIVE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN THE MIDDLE TERTIARY OF THE SOUTH TEXAS COASTAL PLAIN*

IN the course of a short field study of the geologic formations in Live Oak and McMullen counties, Texas, which the writer made early in September, 1923, an extensive deposit of volcanic tuff and agglomerate was discovered. The area in which this volcanic material outcrops is situated near the center of the Gulf Coastal Plain of Texas from 65 to 90 miles south of San Antonio. A more complete report on this deposit will be published later.

This tuffaceous deposit is considered to be of formational rank on the basis of (1) lithologic dissimilarity to the formations above and below it, and (2) its unconformable relations to the adjacent formations. It is here designated as the Gueydan formation from the Gueydan Ranch and Survey in southeastern McMullen County, where it is well exposed.

The Gueydan tuff consists of a lower yellowish-white trachyte tuff and an upper brownish-pink latite or andesite tuff. These members are separated in places by a bed of pink and green mottled, massive, bentonitic clay. The trachyte tuff often exhibits well-marked sun-cracks and frequently contains small pumice pebbles. The latite or andesite tuff contains, in addition to pebbles of pumice as much as three inches in diameter, scattered boulders of black vesicular andesite up to three feet in diameter and a few rounded pebbles of hard sandstone. At the base of the formation is a bed of coarse conglomerate attaining a thickness of twenty feet.

The Gueydan formation lies unconformably above the Frio formation of uppermost Eocene age and unconformably below the Oakville sandstone of Upper Miocene age. Although no fossils were seen in it and no rocks of probable Oligocene age have been reported heretofore from the southern half of the Coastal Plain province of Texas, it is provisionally placed in the Oligocene. The Gueydan formation outcrops in a belt, from three to seven miles wide, that was traced from three miles east of Three Rivers, Live Oak County, southwest to the Duval County line, a distance of over thirty miles. So far as known at the present time, this is the largest deposit of volcanic material that has been found in the Texas Coastal Plain.

The old volcanoes from which the Gueydan tuff was erupted have not been discovered. It is possible either that more detailed field work will bring them to light or that the eroded cones have been covered up by deposits younger than the Gueydan. It is unlikely

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that the large andesitic boulders contained in the formation have been transported very far from their source. Judging by the included boulders and pebbles and by the prominence of sun-cracks, the writer inclines to the belief that much of the Gueydan tuff was deposited on the land as a mud flow.

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HYPERSENSITIVITY TO THE CASTOR BEAN

I WAS very much interested in a communication in a recent number of SCIENCE by Professor Robbins of the University of Missouri, with regard to a case of hypersensitivity to the castor bean. If any confirmation of such a phenomenon is necessary, I can supply it in plenty, both out of my own troubles and those of my instructor, Mr. Lamb.

I have always handled castor beans with impunity, but last fall I contracted a severe case of what was apparently hay fever, without the agency of either hay or pollen. I contracted it in the laboratory and there only. I noticed it first one day after I had been handling dissected castor beans, although I did not mark the connection at that time. I had the same symptoms as enumerated, without the headache—violent and continued sneezing and coughing, irritated mucous membranes of nose, throat and ears, swollen, puffy and reddened eyes, wheezy breathing—and in addition, violent itching of the skin under my chin and on my throat. The last effects of the above wore off only after three months and I am still in a rather bad condition now after one month of it this fall.

I soon attributed the trouble to something in the laboratory, for I noticed that the sneezing was worse on the three days that I had freshman laboratory classes and that I was not irritated so much on the other three alternate days. In order to try and recuperate, I stayed away from the class for a week and was much better, but got the trouble again the next week when I entered the laboratory. Then I began to experiment by removing various plants and plant parts, chemicals, etc., from the room to see what the cause was. I felt better after removing some sprouting onions, but this lasted only two days and I was just as bad the third day. Then I remembered the day of handling the dissected castor beans and removed those, with the thought that in some way the poisonous ricin might have brought about the trouble by being rubbed into my eyes, etc. As soon as the castor beans were gone, I felt better. The sneezing and coughing ceased, as did the itching of my eyes and chin, although it took me a long time to rid myself of the wheeziness in the bronchial tubes.

This fall the trouble came on one day when Mr. Lamb poured some dry castor beans out of a bottle for use in some germination tests, when I happened to be in the same room. I was paying no attention to him and did not know what he was doing, but I began to sneeze violently. It seems strange that dry castor beans should have initiated the symptoms of this fall's trouble, and it may have been only a very unusual coincidence, but, nevertheless, it was the first of my sneezing and hay fever this year. There were no growing or germinating castor beans in the laboratory at this time.

I am interested in having my own conclusions substantiated, for consultation with several physician friends of mine gave me no encouragement in blaming the castor beans for my misery.

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BROWN UNIVERSITY
November, 1923

MR. BRYAN AND THE BISHOP

THE anti-evolution propagandists are meeting with continued success in certain districts. The latest evidence of this is to be found in the current press dispatches reporting that the schools of North Carolina will have no evolution. Evolution has there been banned, not by the legislators but by order of the state board of education. One wonders if there is any relationship between this action and the unusually large incidence of illiteracy in that state.

I am writing, however, to call attention once again to the familiar repartee reported in the life and letters of Thomas Huxley. In the columns of *Life* first appeared the conjecture that Mr. Bryan was not so much concerned with evolution as he was with elocution; perhaps this explains why the arguments used by the free-silvered-tongued orator savor more of catch phrases than of sound logic. A telling phrase in his anti-Darwinian speeches is the one in which he denies that his grandmother was a monkey.

At the Oxford meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1860 the program of Section D centered around Darwinism. One of the closing meetings saw the Bishop of Oxford vent his sarcasms on evolution. Bishop Wilberforce was stifling the cause of evolution under misrepresentation and ridicule and smoothing over the weak portions of his address with rhetoric. We read that the good bishop spoke

> for full half an hour with inimitable spirit, emptiness, and unfairness. In a light, scoffing tone, florid and fluent, he assured us there was nothing in the idea of evolution; rock-pigeons were what rock-pigeons had always been. Then, turning to his antagonist with a smiling insolence, he begged to know, was it through his grandfather or his grandmother that he claimed his descent from a monkey?

The bishop's antagonist was Huxley, who at once grasped the fatal mistake in the speech. The way in which Huxley, as a champion of evolution, returned the thrust is described in *Macmillan's Magazine:*