

Dear Sir:

It has been rumored for a year or more now that there are members of our faculty who hold views which are not in harmony with the fundamental doctrines of historic evangelical Christianity—such as the inspiration, infallibility and authority of the Bible as the Word of God, the direct creation of man, the deity, virgin birth, vicarious death and bodily resurrection of Christ. I have been incredulous of these reports and was disposed to deny them. Recently, however, I have been inclined to fear that there is some foundation for them, and hence this letter.

As you know, the college is owned and controlled by the Southern Presbyterian Church, and is conducted for the purpose of promoting the education and training of our students in the essential principles of Christian doctrine and life as held by the Southern Presbyterian Church and a liberal education in accord with these principles.

It is confidently expected, therefore, that no officer or teacher in the college will hold views, religious or otherwise, which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the fundamental doctrines of the church. Should such views be held by you, this letter is a request that I as the president of the college be informed of the fact. Should I not hear from you immediately in answer to this letter, I will understand that you hold no such views, and that these reports are without foundation so far as you are concerned.

Yours very cordially,  
S. C. BYRD, President

Two professors in the college, Professor Guy A. Lackey, head of the department of education, and professor of education and philosophy, and Professor James M. Reinhardt, of the department of history and sociology, returned answers to the letter of a character presumably unsatisfactory to the president. Their resignations have been asked for, received and accepted.

These men were not questioned as to their creeds before they were employed. Professor Lackey—naïve soul—"took it for granted that all psychologists believe in evolution," and apparently, also, that presidents of all colleges, including denominational ones, realized this common failing of all psychologists.

VERNON KELLOGG

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## QUOTATIONS

### PROFESSOR WHITEHEAD

PROFESSOR A. N. WHITEHEAD, whose appointment for a period of five years to a chair of philosophy at Harvard was recently announced, is fortunate in securing at the age of sixty-three the opportunity it presents of writing up the philosophy that has gradually been developing and maturing in his mind. Free from much of the routine administration and

committee work of a busy university life, with which he is so fully identified, he will be able, save for a few lectures or "chats" per week on his own researches with his students, to devote his whole time to the expansion and publication of his work in certain realms of thought which he had made peculiarly his own—the philosophy of science, mathematical logic and generally the philosophical questions arising from it. On the philosophical side, he proposes to extend and systematize his recent work as embodied in his "Principles of Natural Knowledge," his "Concept of Nature," and "Principles of Relativity," and to consider the metaphysical questions suggested. On the logical side, he intends finishing the fourth volume of "Principia Mathematica," dealing with geometry and more generally with many termed relations. On account of his versatility and his manifold activities, Professor Whitehead's departure from Great Britain will be felt as a great loss to many sections of the educational world, administrative and pedagogic. To the mathematical layman, he is perhaps best known for his "Introduction to Mathematics," probably his one successful book financially, and his collection of addresses, "The Organization of Thought." Since his early days, Professor Whitehead has been identified with a distinctively progressive attitude both with regard to the general philosophic basis of education and to the special technical facilities that demand development. On this account his loss to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, where he succeeded Professor A. R. Forsyth as chief professor of mathematics and mechanics, and to the University of London, where he is chairman of the academic council, can not be estimated. It is a severe commentary on the inelasticity of the British university educational system that it should be necessary for one of such eminence, charm of manner, and inspiring intercourse, to seek a period of five years in an educational establishment of another country in order at the close of an active career to find the opportunity of completing his research. Scientific thought undoubtedly stands to gain by this latest form of American enterprise.—*Nature*.

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Manual of the Vertebrates of the United States.* By H. S. PRATT. P. Blakiston's Son and Company, Philadelphia.

NATURALISTS all over the country will have cause to rejoice at the convenient "Manual of the Vertebrates of the United States" recently brought out by Blakiston. It is written by Dr. H. S. Pratt, of Haverford College, and will serve an equally important function