tions first in Arizona and New Mexico, which later will be extended to all Indian reservations. Temporary hospitals will be established in Indian school buildings unoccupied during the vacation period.

FORESTRY investigations in the southern pine belt will be greatly enlarged by the increased appropriation of $25,000 for the Southern Forest Experiment Station made in the closing days of the past session of Congress. The increased appropriation will permit adding several men to the station staff and increasing the investigations now under way on forest fires, reforestation, methods of cutting timber to insure natural reforestation, better methods of turpentining to prevent killing timber, damage caused by grazing, rate of growth of timber and many problems connected with timber growing throughout the pine region.

THE Geographical Society of Geneva, acting on behalf of the International Red Cross Committee and of the League of Red Cross Societies, has decided to issue a scientific periodical entitled "Matériaux pour l'étude des calamités" (Contributions to the study of calamities). It will publish original articles, reviews of important publications dealing with particular chapters of geophysics (earthquakes, volcanoes, etc.), meteorology (cyclones, blizzards, floods, droughts, etc.), zoology (locusts), hygiene (epidemics, famines), reviews of important publications, recent information and data.

THE ninth report of the British committee for the investigation of atmospheric pollution, covering the year ended March 31, 1923, has been issued. The year's operations are described under six sections. The first deals with the results obtained by what is known as the standard deposit gauge, in which atmospheric impurity accumulates month by month with the rain. Thirty-five such gauges were in operation during the year. It is shown that there was a distinct improvement in the purity of the air during the year as compared with the average of preceding years. A table is given showing the places with the highest and lowest deposits for the year. The highest total deposits is shown in Rochdale and the lowest in Rothamsted; the greatest amount of tar was deposited in Newcastle-on-Tyne, while the highest deposit of sulphates was found in Southwark Park, London.

FRENCH chemists have perfected new methods of identifying pictures, according to the American Chemical Society. They use groups of red, blue, green, or white light to light the picture, and they examine the suspected canvass with the spectrometer. Employment of these various colors puts in relief the retouchings, scrapings and changed signatures which constitute a false picture. By employing the ultraviolet ray they make the zinc white and certain varnishes stand out by fluorescence. Finally, by scraping off very small amounts of paint, they have made spectrographic analyses of them, and have been able thus to determine for example, in a false Renoir, the presence of a cadmium yellow, when Renoir only used chrome yellow.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

WELLESLEY COLLEGE has received $500,000 for a new administration building by the gift of Colonel and Mrs. Edward H. R. Green, of New York.

A GIFT of $500,000 has been made by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to the division of fine arts of Harvard University to be applied to the fund of $2,000,000 being raised for the erection and endowment of the new Fogg Art Museum at the university.

HERBERT E. BOLTON, professor of history at the University of California for the past twelve years, has been appointed president of the University of Texas.

DR. LEROY A. HOWLAND has been reappointed acting president of Wesleyan University.

DR. A. C. SEWARD, F.R.S., master of Downing College, and professor of botany, has been elected Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University for the academic year beginning October 1 in succession to Dr. E. C. Pearce, master of Corpus Christi, who will have served the office for three years.

DR. WILBERT C. DAVISON, associate professor of pediatrics, Johns Hopkins Medical School, has been named assistant dean in that institution.

DR. R. F. RUTTAN, director of the department of chemistry, McGill University, has been appointed dean of the faculty of graduate studies and research, to succeed Dr. F. D. Adams, who has resigned from the university.

HERBERT S. LANGFELD, professor of psychology at Harvard University, has been appointed professor of psychology and director of the new psychological laboratory at Princeton University.

PROFESSOR E. R. HEDRICK, of the University of Missouri, has been appointed professor of mathematics at the University of California and will be in charge of the department of mathematics at the southern branch, Los Angeles.

APPOINTMENTS made at the University of Oklahoma include that of Dr. A. O. Weese, of James Milliken University, who has been made professor of zoology, and A. I. Ortonburger, of the American Mu-

seum of Natural History, assistant professor of zoology.

Two appointments from European universities to the faculty of the medical school of Johns Hopkins University have been made as follows: Dr. J. W. McNee, of University College, London, is to be associate professor of medicine. Dr. Bela Halpert, first assistant to Professor Otto Grosser at the University of Prague, is to be instructor in anatomy.

DR. ROBERT C. MILLER, who during the past three years has been engaged in the marine borer investigations of the San Francisco Bay Marine Piling Committee and the National Research Council, has been appointed assistant professor of zoology in the University of Washington.

THE following appointments have been made at the University of Virginia: Dr. Leroy A. Calkins, of the University of Minnesota, to professor of obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. Alfred Chanutin, of the University of Illinois, associate professor of biological chemistry; Dr. Arthur Ferguson Benton, national research fellow at the California Institute of Technology, to assistant professor of chemistry, and Dr. A. A. Pegan to acting assistant professor of geology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

WOMEN OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

IN the third article on "The history of the A. A. A. S." by Professor Herman L. Fairchild, in SCIENCE, for May 9, p. 411, it is said that: "The only woman official of the association was Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith, who was secretary of the section of anthropology in 1885." This is incorrect, as there have been at least three other women officials, all of the section of anthropology. Two were chairmen of that section, *viz.*, Miss Alice C. Fletcher at the Buffalo meeting of 1896 and Miss Lillian J. Martin in 1915. In 1894 I was elected secretary of the section for the following meeting, but resigned before it was held. The secretary who had been elected for the 1897 Detroit meeting similarly resigned, and I was then elected for the second time and served as secretary at that meeting.

There was an odd combination of circumstances at Detroit in 1897. The president of the association did not attend the meeting; my husband, W J McGee, was chairman of anthropology and senior vice-president of the association; his time was therefore mainly occupied by his duties as acting president, while I became acting chairman, as well as secretary, of the section.

ANITA NEWCOMB MCGEE

WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

POISONING FROM CASTOR BEANS

I HAVE been much interested in the recent letters regarding allergic reactions with castor beans. The castor bean grows wild here over wide areas and is commonly eaten by many people as a substitute for the oil or a pill for a cathartic. This practice is so common that it is currently believed that the beans are innocuous, but there is ample evidence to the contrary.

In 1920 a soldier stationed in Schofield Barracks ate five castor beans one afternoon. The morning of the second day he died in coma, the direct cause of death being acute nephritis. He had anaphylactic symptoms within a few hours after ingestion of the beans, followed by an intense toxemia which was fatal through kidney damage. This was considered at the time to be due in all probability to a ricin poisoning, which may have been absorbed through the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, or possibly, and I think more likely, through a lesion somewhere in the canal.

I have since seen two cases where the ingestion of a single bean was followed in five minutes by edema of the mouth and pharynx and in one case of the glottis. This progressed in each case to a degree which made speech or swallowing extremely difficult, and in one case respiration became dangerously impeded. In each case there was general urticaria with giant wheals. Adrenalin relieved all the symptoms promptly and permanently.

The asthmatic and hay-fever symptoms mentioned in previous communications are entirely new in my experience, and it would interest me greatly to hear whether any one else has experienced them.

H. L. ARNOLD

HONOLULU, HAWAII

THE ENCYSTMENT OF VAMPYRELLA ELEGANS (H. AND L.)

AN interesting analysis of the conditions leading to encystment of *Didinium nasutum*, by Mast and Ibara, appeared in *Biological Bulletin* last August. In their introduction, they cited the opinion of Root that suctoria encyst when they lack food; of Mast that Didinium sometimes encysts when food is lacking; of Miss Carter that Amoeba encysts when food is abundant; of Miss Hogue that Amoeba limax encysts due to metabolic waste products, which lead to a weakened vitality, "resulting in the loss of power of assimilation"; and of Calkins, who, in speaking of encystment in general, says it is "a special adaptive process by which the organisms are enabled to survive when the environment is unsuitable."

In this connection, facts concerning the *Vampyrella elegans* (H. and L.) that appeared under the title