

28. The attendance, 362, exceeded all former records. The 150 members present represented 70 colleges, 38 states, Canada and Hawaii. The new officers of the society are: *President*, Dean A. A. Potter, of Purdue; *vice-presidents*, Professor R. S. King, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Dean G. B. Pegram, Columbia University; *secretary*, Dean F. L. Bishop, of Pittsburgh; *treasurer*, W. O. Wiley, of New York. The 1925 meeting will be at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.

At the first annual meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association held at the Institute for Juvenile Research, Chicago, on June 10, the following officers were elected: *President*, Dr. William Healy, Boston; *vice-president*, Dr. Arnold L. Jacoby, Detroit, and *secretary-treasurer*, Dr. Karl A. Menninger, Topeka, Kans. Among the speakers were Drs. Douglas A. Thom, Boston; David M. Levy, Chicago, and Bernard Glueck and Victor V. Anderson, of New York. The association was organized to study crime and other conduct disorders from a psychologic standpoint. Active membership is limited to psychiatrists engaged directly in the study and treatment of behavior disorders.

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association held in Ottawa from June 17 to 20, under the presidency of Dr. John F. Kidd, Ottawa, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. David Low, Regina, Sask.; *editor of the Canadian Medical Association Journal*, Dr. Alexander D. Blackader, Montreal, Que.; *treasurer and managing editor*, Dr. Alfred T. Bazin, Montreal; *chairman of council*, Dr. Alexander Primrose, Toronto, and *general secretary*, Dr. Thomas C. Routley, Toronto.

THE Pan-Pacific Food Conservation Conference to be held under the auspices of the Pan-Pacific Union, in Honolulu, from July 31 to August 14, will comprise the following groups: (1) International agreements regarding fisheries. (2) Economic entomology. (3) Plant pathology. (4) International quarantine policies. (5) Crop production and improvement. (6) Forestry. (7) Climatology. (8) Transportation and distribution of food products. (9) Topography—land and sea. (10) Animal husbandry.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A BUDGET of \$24,240,000 has been drawn up for the reconstruction of the Imperial University of Tokio. The buildings were largely destroyed by the earthquake and fire of September 1, 1923.

S. A. COURTAULD has made a donation of £20,000 to

endow the university professorship of anatomy in the medical school of Middlesex Hospital, London.

THE new medical college of the University of Rochester was dedicated, June 14, with the laying of the cornerstone by Dr. Benjamin Rush Rhees, president of the university. Dr. Edward Bright Vedder, Lieutenant-Colonel M. C., U. S. Army, was the principal speaker.

DR. KARL TAYLOR COMPTON, professor of physics at Princeton University, has been appointed professor of physics at the University of Chicago.

DR. HENRY C. SHERMAN, who has taught in the department of chemistry at Columbia University since 1899, has been designated Mitchell professor of chemistry, a title previously held by Dr. Charles F. Chandler.

DR. EUGENE L. PORTER, assistant professor of physiology at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, has been appointed professor of physiology at the University of Texas, succeeding Dr. Charles C. Gault, resigned.

DR. LLOYD W. TAYLOR, of the University of Chicago, has been appointed professor of physics at Oberlin College.

DR. T. S. LOVERING, of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed instructor in geology at the University of Arizona.

At a meeting of the senate of the University of London, held on June 25, Professor E. A. Gardner Yates, professor of archeology in the university, tenable at University College, was elected vice-chancellor for 1924-25, in succession to H. J. Waring.

J. E. P. WAGSTAFF, fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and lecturer in physics in the University of Leeds, has been appointed professor of physics at Durham University.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### A WIDESPREAD ERROR RELATING TO COPERNICUS

IN Volume 6 of the "New International Encyclopedia," 1923, under the word "Copernicus" we find the following statements: "Having become enamored of the study of astronomy, he projected a journey to Rome in his enthusiastic admiration of Regiomontanus, who resided there and was then the most illustrious of the astronomers. On his arrival, in 1500, he was kindly received by Regiomontanus." A somewhat similar statement appears on page 347 of volume 1, 1923, of Smith's "History of Mathematics," and also in the fourth edition of Lippincott's "Biographical Dictionary," 1915, under the name "Copernicus." An amusing feature as regards these statements is the

fact that Regiomontanus had died in 1476; more than twenty years before Copernicus arrived in Rome, according to the date given above. In fact, Copernicus was only a little more than three years old when Regiomontanus died, and hence the numerous references to his having studied astronomy under Regiomontanus, which appear in many places besides those noted above, are ridiculous.

The main justification for calling public attention to such errors seems to be that such publicity may tend to check the baneful influences of these errors, and hence it seems to be especially desirable to direct attention to the comparatively few errors which remain in the most meritorious of the extensively used books. In view of the fact that the present writer was criticized in a recent number of this periodical, volume 59, page 191, for directing attention to a minor error relating to a pioneer in mathematical research in our country, he would simply say that his remarks were not intended for those who see practically no difference between the statements "in charge of the Nautical Almanac," and "did much work on the Nautical Almanac," and "was consulting astronomer from 1849 to 1867." He would also like to state here that his interest in the correction of historical errors was not inspired by the feeling that he himself had never committed such an error, but, on the contrary, by the chagrin caused by being so frequently misled by authorities in whom he had placed undue confidence. The destruction of undue confidence is an important step in the study of the history of science.

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#### A NOTE ON MIGRATION OF MYRIAPODA

THE periodic migrations of certain insects and other animals have held the attention of biologists for generations and continue to afford items of fresh interest from time to time. A careful survey of the literature on this subject does not reveal any previous observations recorded on migrations of centipedes; in fact, it appears the universal consensus of opinion that centipedes do not migrate.

Last August (8-18-23), while crossing the desert stretch between Lordsburg and Mesilla Park, New Mexico, in company of Professor Oscar B. Jacobson, of the University of Oklahoma, we encountered what appeared to be a migration of centipedes. We had driven along for a number of minutes paying little or no attention to the black objects scattered here and there in our pathway. When at last they became so numerous that the wheels of our Ford killed one every yard we stopped just long enough to notice that these objects were centipedes. They measured from five to seven inches in length and belonged to the genus *Scolopendra*, order *Chilopoda*. It was

high noon when this scene was encountered. With only an occasional exception, these creatures were headed due north, progressing at a fair pace. A feature of unusual interest to me was their uniform distribution over the ground, each one apparently occupying a space of about four or five square feet. There was no vestige of vegetation present in this region nor even kindly rocks which might have afforded shelter for these creatures. We thought of possible mishaps to our "Lizzy," the thirsty radiator and perhaps a forced stay in this most uninviting, inhospitable environment and drove on. Fully ten more minutes were consumed in driving through this sea of centipedes, and countless victims remained behind in our tracks. We breathed a sigh of relief when the scattered outposts were reached and the burning sands alone reflected the heat of the brilliant desert sun.

I am at a loss to explain the phenomenon just cited. The time of the day when the observation was made does not agree with the normal habits of centipedes, which are nocturnal. Of course we know that certain birds, whose activities are restricted to daylight, make prolonged nocturnal flights during their migrations.

The nature of the terrain, sand without vegetation or rock shelter, coupled with the fact that all the creatures seen were adults and the mass movement was unidirectional, is, I believe, sufficient reason to preclude a breeding ground.

It is true that the month of August is in the rainy season of that section of New Mexico, for we were daily pursued by or chasing a storm until after we passed Tularosa on our way to Roswell. Tremendous quantities of water flow from all directions toward the principal depressions of the desert, the so-called sinks. If the presence of water had driven these centipedes from their haunts, why would they not seramble for dry ground in all directions?

Any theories suggested placing the responsibility for this phenomenon would, for the want of proof, remain as mere conjectures. To summarize: the time of the day when the observation was made, the enormous number of individuals making up this vast colony and the unidirectional course they pursued add only mystery to this observation until it is substantiated by someone else and studied at length.

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#### CORRECTION OF NAME OF SNAIL

RECENTLY, in *SCIENCE* of May 16, 1924, N. S. Vol. LIX, No. 1533, the writer published a note giving an account of the training of a snail in this laboratory. Unfortunately the writer had been incorrectly informed as to the proper designation of the subject