what is said to be the first outdoor camping geological course ever offered by any college or university. The course is open only to students who have studied geology for a year and a half and regular credit is given.

PROFESSOR N. V. RASHEVSKY, of Prague, delivered two lectures on certain aspects of the theory of relativity, on August 7 and 8, at the Washington Square Laboratory of New York University.

A MONUMENT erected to the memory of J. Henri Fabre, the well-known French naturalist, at Saint-Leons, his native town, was unveiled on August 3.

REPRESENTATIVES of the American Meteorological Society attending the meeting of the British Association in Toronto, have planned a fund in memory of the late Dr. C. LeRoy Meisinger, which is to provide scholarships for students, who will take training for a special aerological career or for other research work in connection with the science of the air.

DR. JOHN J. STEVENSON, professor emeritus of geology at New York University and formerly president of the Geological Society of America, died on August 10, aged eighty-two years.

DR. GEORGE ARTHUR PIERSON, professor emeritus of anatomy, histology and embryology at the University of Pennsylvania, died on August 7, at the age of sixty-eight years.

PROFESSOR HEINRICH PRECHT, who was closely associated with the German potash industry and contributed many important investigations in this field, has died at the age of seventy-two years.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

BY the will of the late J. C. White, former Lord Mayor of Belfast, Queen's University has received £60,000. Of this amount the sum of £40,000 is to be used in founding a professorship of biochemistry and in equipping the department.

H. H. CUSHMAN has given a fund for the establishment of a graduate fellowship in chemical research at Western Reserve University, carrying $750 each term.

AT Vanderbilt University the following appointments to the medical faculty have been made to take effect in 1925: Dr. Glenn E. Cullen, associate professor of research medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed professor of biological chemistry; Dr. Ernest W. Goodpasture, director of the Singer Memorial Laboratory at Pittsburgh, has been appointed professor of pathology; Dr. Robert Sidney Cunningham, associate professor of anatomy at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has been appointed professor of anatomy; Dr. James M. Neill, assistant at the Rockefeller Institute, has been appointed associate professor of bacteriology. During the present year Drs. Cullen and Goodpasture will study in Europe and Dr. Neill will study in this country with grants awarded them by the General Education Board, New York, while Dr. Cunningham will continue his work at the Johns Hopkins University.

DR. W. J. HUFF, of the Koppers Company, Pittsburgh, has been appointed professor of gas engineering at the Johns Hopkins University, to give a new course in gas engineering which is sponsored by the Southern Gas Association.

AT McGill University psychology has been made a department separate from philosophy. Dr. William D. Tait has been promoted from associate professor to be chairman of the department and director of the psychological laboratory. Dr. James W. Bridges, associate professor of psychology at the University of Toronto, has accepted a call to a similar position at McGill University.

WE have been requested to state that Professor A. F. Kidder has not resigned from the College of Agriculture of the Louisiana State University as has been printed elsewhere.

SIR GILBERT T. WALKER, formerly director-general of Indian observatories, has been appointed professor of meteorology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology at South Kensington, in succession to Sir Napier Shaw, who is retiring.

DR. RICHARD WILLSTATTER has resigned his professorship of chemistry at Munich, on account of anti-semitic demonstrations. He has since accepted the chair of chemistry at Heidelberg.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

SPECIES OF CREPIS

AN unfortunate mistake in identity of a certain species of Crepis has gotten into the literature and seems likely to cause much confusion unless corrected. In his first paper on the chromosomes of Crepis, Rosenberg[1] described certain irregularities in chromosome distribution in a species designated as *Crepis Reuteriana*. In his second paper the author[2] uses the same name in referring to his original data.

[1] Rosenberg, O. "Chromosomenzahlen und Chromosomendimensionen in der Gattung Crepis." *Ark. för Bot.*, Vol. 15, 1918.

[2] "Weitere Untersuchungen über die Chromosomenverhältnisse in Crepis." *Svensk Bot. Tidskr.*, Vol. 14, 1920.

Upon request Professor Rosenberg kindly sent the writer seeds of his *C. "Reuteriana"* in 1921. These achenes were identical with those of *C. capillaris* (L.) Wallr. (= *C. virens*), and a large number of plants grown from this seed were all *C. capillaris*. The diploid chromosome number for *C. capillaris* is 6. Inasmuch as the normal diploid number for the plants designated by Rosenberg as *C. Reuteriana* is also 6 and plants grown from the same lot of seed were *C. capillaris,* there can be no doubt that *C. Reuteriana,* as used by Rosenberg, was a misnomer. The responsibility for this error seems to rest primarily with the Copenhagen Botanic Garden, whence Dr. Rosenberg obtained the material in question under the name, *Crepis Reuteriana.* As the determinations of this botanic garden are usually very accurate, Dr. Rosenberg assumed that the material in question was correctly labeled. This case illustrates how important it is that cytologists be very particular as to the identity of the material on which they publish. This is more apparent now than it was only a few years ago, on account of the bearing of recent cytologic, genetic and taxonomic research on phylogeny and evolution.

The chromosome number of *C. Reuteriana* has not yet been determined.

More recent references to Rosenberg's *C. "Reuteriana,"* for example by Heilborn,[3] and the probability that the true *C. Reuteriana* will figure in later investigations, make it desirable that this error in nomenclature be corrected without delay.

The writer has had the privilege of showing this note to Professor Rosenberg, who approves its publication.

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GERMANIC PSEUDO-SCIENCE

I DESIRE to comment very briefly on a pretentious looking publication received recently entitled, "Pflanzenverbreitung und Entwicklung der Kontinente." The author is Edgar Irmscher and the article, which runs to 235 pages and 33 figures, is published by the Institut für allgemeine Botanik, of Hamburg.

The author concludes that the present distribution and the past history of plants can best be explained by the so-called Wegener hypothesis of peripatetic continents and wandering poles. He displays the same ignorance of geological history as does Wegener, but it is not my purpose to waste space in an analysis of his conclusions, which, however, seem to me to be entirely contrary to the facts.

What is serious in its effect on the progress of science and on true scientific method is that a man can get publication for erroneous statements about which he knows nothing, as, for example (p. 70), that the core of Potosi Mountain in Bolivia is not rhyolite, but conglomerate, slate and tuff; that the Concepcion-Arauco flora of the coal measures of southern Chile is Pleistocene in age (p. 81), when actually it is interbedded and overlain with an extensive lower Miocene marine fauna; that the fossil flora from near Tumbez in northwestern Peru is Pliocene in age (p. 67), when it is interbedded with an extensive lower Miocene marine fauna that can be most conclusively correlated with the Miocene of Central America and the Antilles. Much more of a similar sort might be cited.

The fundamental basis for useful scientific speculation is that it shall explain observed facts, or at least that the speculator shall endeavor to substantiate his conclusions by facts of observation, not that facts of observation shall be misrepresented to fit the demands of a subjective hypothesis.

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[3] Heilborn, O., "Chromosome numbers and dimensions, species formation and phylogeny in the genus Carex." *Hereditas,* Vol. V, 1924, pp. 183–4.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

A Text-book of General Physiology for Colleges. By PHILIP H. MITCHELL. McGraw-Hill Book Co. 748 + xix pages.

TEACHERS of college physiology have for a number of years felt the need of a text-book suitable for elementary students, one which would present the more modern developments of the subject with less detail and from a more general point of view than any of the numerous existing works for medical students. Philip H. Mitchell's "Text-book of General Physiology" has been written to meet this need, and the cordial reception which it has received since its publication several months ago indicates that it is likely to fill successfully its intended place.

The book, in the words of its author, "is designed for use by college students who have studied introductory biology, chemistry and physics, but have not studied the organic and physical chemistry that seem prerequisite to the intelligent use of the advanced text-books of physiology and biochemistry which are now available." It is evident that there are several possible ways of attempting to meet the needs of this class of students. At the one extreme would be a text-book of "General Physiology" in the sense in which most readers of the *Journal of General Physiology* and of the writings of Bayliss understand this term. Such a book might use illustrations from the