Baltimore about October 1 to take up his work again in the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University. In addition to teaching at the Peking Union Medical College, Dr. Cort, associated with Dr. J. B. Grant and Dr. N. R. Stoll, has been engaged in investigations on hookworm disease in China. Surveys and epidemiologic studies have been carried out at Chefoo, Peking, Wuchang, Soochow, Nantungchow and Canton. The headquarters of the work have been at the Soochow Hospital, Soochow, where a continuous program of experimental researches has been carried out, beginning with July, 1923. The China Hookworm Commission has worked under the auspices of the Peking Union Medical College, and has been financed by the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE department of medicine of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville has received the sum of $15,000 from an anonymous donor to establish scholarships in memory of Dr. Richard H. Whitehead, dean of the school from 1905–1916.

THE University of Cambridge has received a bequest from the late Mrs. Constance Jenkinson for the purpose of founding a lectureship for the encouragement and advance of research in comparative and experimental embryology in the university, to be called the John Wilfred Jenkinson Memorial Lectureship, in memory of her husband, a fellow of Exeter College, who was killed in the war.

THE Board of Governors of McGill University has authorized the construction of a new building for the department of electricity.

ON August 1, the London School of Tropical Medicine became incorporated in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine under the directorship of Dr. Andrew Balfour. All the members of the old institution will become members of the staff of the new London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

AT the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Mississippi on July 29, Dr. Alfred Hume, vice-chancellor, was elected chancellor; Dr. J. O. Crider, assistant dean of the School of Medicine, was elected dean; Lloyd E. Thatcher, of the department of zoology of the University of Michigan, was elected professor of biology and embryology, and T. E. Wilson, Jr., was elected acting assistant professor of histology and physiology.

AT the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, Dr. Arthur J. Wilson, of Wabash College, and Dr. Frank E. Rice, of Cornell University, have been appointed professors in the department of chemistry.

DR. FLOYD H. ALLPORT, formerly associate professor of psychology in the University of North Carolina, has accepted a professorship of political and social psychology in the new School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, to be opened this fall at Syracuse University.

PROFESSOR E. M. WATSON has been appointed lecturer on pathologic chemistry at the Western University Faculty of Medicine, London, Ont., and consulting pathologist for Victoria Hospital.

PROFESSOR ULRICH EBBECKE, of Göttingen, has been appointed to the chair of physiology at Bonn, vacated by Professor Hofman.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

NEW CASTS OF THE PITHECANTHROPUS REMAINS

IN the beginning of July, 1923, during the writer's visit to Professor Eugene Dubois, to examine, at the latter's invitation and after their long seclusion, the highly important originals of the *Pithecanthropus*, the need of new and reliable casts of all the remains was urged upon Professor Dubois, who promised to comply as soon as circumstances permitted. On July 10, this year, the following gratifying and self-explanatory letter was received:

"Dear Dr. H.

To-day I have forwarded to the Koninklyke Akademie von Wetenschappen, Amsterdam, casts of all the fossil remains of *Pithecanthropus erectus:* the calvarium, the endocranial cavity, the femur, the three teeth and the mandibular fragment, for the U. S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

I beg to excuse the late date of this, a year ago promised sending, by my having been seriously indisposed during a long time and the circumstances that we have no specialist in this country to make casts of this kind, so that the work had to be done for the greatest part by my own hands.

Believe me sincerely yours,
(Sgd.) EUG. DUBOIS."

It is understood that two other sets of these casts have been made, one of which is destined for the American Museum of Natural History.

ALEŠ HRDLIČKA
U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

AS STUDENTS UNDERSTAND IT

I THINK it was President Eliot who used the expression, "The incredible incapacity of the average student to receive instruction."

During 36 years, 34 of which have been continuous at one institution, of active work in teaching—per-

haps, from what follows, I should say, in trying to teach the biological sciences, one is apt to have had experience with various types of student mentality and to have learned something of the intricate cerebrations of student aspirants to wisdom.

One can expect a certain amount of misspelling of scientific terms, such as "Senterpede; Bile Ducks; Liver fruit (flukes)," and so forth. These will always occur under the present system of teaching spelling in the lower schools.

Looking over a list of choice and rare gems of student misinformation evidenced in written answers, which has been gleaned from actual test papers during a long period, the following actual answers would seem to have been faked, or to be the lucubrations of a disordered imagination.

The following are among the more amazing:

Enzymes are plants having hairs that are inactive; such as cactus and onion.

Root-tubercle bacteria attack the roots, causing them to die, and it is due to the decay of layer or top of layer of plants and vegetable matter that causes the production of fuel.

By metamorphosis is meant the change in form which takes place in animals in whose life history metamorphosis takes place.

Pollination is a process by which the ovary of the stamen is fertilized by the pollen which comes from the *antlers*.

Malaria is caused by a certain kind of mosquito, and in a little while he has yellow fever. Of course every kind of louse does not carry yellow fever.

Sporozoa is a disease caused by certain forms of bacteria.

Birds have one antiseptic kondyle (Occipital condyle).

An antiseptic is something that prevents or stamps out fumigation.

Bacteria are used when vaccinating a person for disease; again they are used in spraying plants.

Vertebrates are mammals or man, such as birds, lizards, reptiles, snakes, fish, whales.

A notochord is an animal that has not a backbone.

Arthropods have the nerve system on the Bellephloem (Belly floor?).

A metamorphosis is a sucking insect and is very injurious to trees.

Placenta is center of some animal element which is surrounded by some more of animal substance not as vital as it.

An insect is a vertebrate and invertebrate animal, having no true back bone.

Liver-flukes attack the tail of the animal, which excited, moves its tail; this is kept up until finally the tail falls off.

Chinch-bugs may be controlled by use of carbon bisulphide gas on the outer rows of a corn field.

Reptiles have two or more pairs of limbs, such as the locust and others.

O Tempora, O Mores!

ELLISON A. SMYTH, JR.

THE SCIENTIST AND AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

IN the current (June 20) issue of SCIENCE I have noted the communication of Dr. Roland G. Kent on "The scientist and an international language." The need for an international language is great both in science and in other fields. It is perhaps possible to conceive that the translation of articles upon scientific subjects into Latin would be relatively easy for a very few men, but for most of us such a thing would constitute a *tour de force*, in fact a practical impossibility, even assuming that we had at hand an adequate "unabridged" English-Latin dictionary of modern scientific and technical expressions.

To express modern ideas in Latin requires exceedingly ingenious, not to say clumsy, circumlocutions. The technical dictionaries in the vernacular are always far behind the daily and common use of technical and scientific expressions and the best dictionaries contain but a portion of the technical terms. As an example I might cite the fact that nearly half of the 1,200 milling and baking terms which I have compiled are not found in "Webster" or the "Standard."

A Latin glossary is perhaps possible for sciences like botany, and without doubt a commission could translate or transliterate most of our modern chemical terms, but it would not be quite so feasible in the social sciences and would certainly be difficult in the mechanical arts. In high school and university I devoted five years to Latin, one year to Greek and four years to German, also taking a little French and Spanish, yet I should certainly hopelessly fall down if the task were given me to describe in Latin a walk around Lake Calhoun, let alone writing an article on measurement of viscosity or talking to a foreign chemist regarding the specific rotatory power of a soluble carbohydrate.

In scientific work we could not get along without modern scientific equipment such as pyrex and silica glass, dictaphones and audion valves, and it is certainly not in line with progress or convenience to think of going back to antiquated modes of expression even though that could be accomplished. We have gone beyond the Roman notation and adopted the very simple and easier Arabic notation. We have adopted universal musical notation and have nearly come to full use of the metric system. Why should we hesitate to adopt Esperanto, which nearly if not completely possesses every desired quality which an international language should possess?

Dr. Kent asserts that any artificial language can not convey the thought with objective certainty, but that Latin is unsurpassed in this respect. I have for many years made the most practical use of Esperanto in gathering scientific information from non-scien-