

in the sugar cane industry was brought together at the Pan-Pacific Food Conservation Conference at Honolulu, July 28 to August 14, under the auspices of the Pan-Pacific Union. Representatives at the sugar conference were present from Australia, Fiji, Formosa, Japan, Philippine Islands, India, Java, Chile, Mexico, Porto Rico, Cuba, the continental United States and the Hawaiian Islands. The meeting was considered so fruitful by those in attendance that a permanent organization to be called the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists has been perfected. The purpose of the society as outlined in the constitution is as follows: "An organization to promote by means of triennial conventions the discussion of problems connected with sugar production in both field and factory." Officers elected for the present triennial term were Hamilton P. Agee, of Hawaii, as general chairman and M. S. Barnett, of Australia, as general secretary; H. Atherton Lee was appointed assistant secretary. The next meeting of the society will be held in Havana, Cuba, in February, 1927.

We learn from *Nature* that the first conference of the Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratory Assistants' Association was held from September 1 to 5, in the department of pathology of the University of Edinburgh. The attendance was good, there being members present from all parts of Great Britain and also from Africa. The local organization was in the hands of a committee appointed by the Scottish division of the association. Lectures and demonstrations in laboratory technique were held, an exhibition of laboratory work and apparatus was on view and places of interest in and around Edinburgh were visited. Members of the Scottish division of the association were responsible for the exhibition, while the London division showed objects of tropical interest and demonstrated specimens illustrating the life history of parasites and their insect hosts. At the dinner on September 5, the president, Professor A. E. Boycott, made the presentation of the first Woodhead medal to Albert Norman together with an address. This medal has been established by means of funds collected among members of the association in memory of the late Sir German Sims Woodhead. In all, £141 has now been received and the subscription list is soon to be closed.

A GENERAL discussion on the physical chemistry of igneous rock formation is to be held in the rooms of the Geological Society of England, London, on October 22. The meeting is being organized under the joint auspices of the Faraday Society, the Geological Society and the Mineralogical Society. A general introduction will be contributed by Dr. J. S. Flett, and papers are expected from Professor C. H. Desch, Dr. J. W. Evans, Professor J. W. Gregory, A. F.

Hallimond, Professor Paul Niggli, Dr. A. Richardson, Dr. A. Scott, G. W. Tyrrell and Dr. W. E. S. Turner.

A LARGE collection of natural history material and Indian artifacts has been given to the Oregon Agricultural College, by the heirs of the collector, the late Dr. J. L. Hill.

THE California Academy of Sciences has received by the will of the late Henry M. Holbrook a collection of Lepidoptera of several thousand specimens, and the sum of \$2,000 in cash with which to meet the cost of installation.

THE corner-stones of the Todd Memorial Clinic and the Cancer Institute at the university hospitals, University of Minnesota, were laid on October 1.

DEAN E. D. MERRILL, of the University of California College of Agriculture, has recommended the transfer of the Division of Citriculture and Subtropical Horticulture from Berkeley to the Citrus Experimental Station at Riverside, California.

THE Council of the Zoological Society of London has instituted an Aquarium Research Fellowship of the annual value of £350, tenable for one year, but with the expectation of reappointment for two further years if satisfactory progress is being made.

THE formal opening of the Ramsay Laboratory of Chemical Engineering at University College, London, instituted in 1923 as part of the memorial to the late Sir William Ramsay, will take place in November. A full course of study in chemical engineering will be provided in the laboratory in the coming session, leading to the degrees of M.Sc. or Ph.D. in chemical engineering. The course is designed to meet the demands of the manufacturing industries for men trained in the application of scientific methods to the design and operation of industrial chemical processes and plant. Special facilities are provided for research.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

ONE million dollars has been pledged to the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Virginia, and the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Alabama, by the Rockefeller General Education Board on condition that the trustees of the two schools raise an equal amount.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, Washington, has received a gift of \$750,000 from John K. Mullen, of Denver, which is to be used for a library building.

THE new Goessmann Laboratory of Chemistry at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, erected at a

cost of \$300,000 and now almost completed, was dedicated on October 3. The laboratory is named for the first professor of chemistry at the college.

DR. HENRY PAGE, dean of the school of medicine at the University of Cincinnati, has resigned.

AT Harvard University Dr. Frank H. Lahey, professor of clinical surgery, and Dr. Roger I. Lee, Henry K. Oliver professor of hygiene, have resigned.

DR. LEE PAUL SIEG, professor of physics at the State University of Iowa, has been appointed head of the department of physics at the University of Pittsburgh, in the place of Dr. Jay H. Clo, who has resigned to accept a research position with the J. E. Shrader Company, of New York. Dr. Richard Hamer, of the University of Wisconsin, and Dr. W. N. St. Peter, of the University of Michigan, have been appointed assistant professors in the same department.

DR. G. A. TALBERT, formerly associate professor of physiology at the University of Nebraska Medical School, has become professor of physiology at the University of North Dakota.

DR. CARL OTTO, of the University of Cincinnati, has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Maine.

DR. H. N. CALDERWOOD, JR., of the United States Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin.

DR. M. J. ZIGLER has been elected assistant professor of psychology at Wellesley College.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR W. L. G. WILLIAMS, of Cornell University, has been appointed assistant professor of mathematics at McGill University.

DR. ARCHIBALD YOUNG, professor of surgery and dean of the Anderson College of Medicine, Glasgow, has been appointed Regius professor of surgery in the University of Glasgow, in succession to the late Sir William Macewen.

DR. MAX V. GRUBER, professor of hygiene and bacteriology at the University of Munich, has resigned, and Professor Paul Uhlenhuth, of the University of Freiburg, has been appointed to take his place.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AN UNPUBLISHED METRICAL EPIGRAM BY JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

DURING the "renaissance of New England," Jeffries Wyman, Harvard's gifted anatomist, enjoyed the friendship of famous *literati*. Among his papers there is a battered photograph of bones, on which he

had written—"From Prof. J. R. Lowell." Professor Lowell had doubtless felt able to part with it, but first inscribed on it elegiac couplets in German script, suggested by the picture, and of interest to its recipient. The photograph was issued by Hermann Kron, of Dresden, and shows, against a draped background, a well-posed skeleton of a powerful lion; a human skull, on the floor beneath the lion, marks the proportions of a puny race.

These are the verses which Lowell wrote:

Mäste dein Vieh in geeigneter Art mit erleuchtendem
Phosphor—
Weiser als Moleschott wirst, triffst du das richtige Mass.
Giebst du zu wenig, so folget der Fluch entsetzlicher
Dummheit,
Aber ein Gran zu viel—! Siehe dies Löwenskelett!!!¹

The reference is to the celebrated physiological chemist, Jacob Moleschott (1822-1893), who concluded the chapter on "peas, beans and lentils" in his *Lehre der Nahrungsmittel—Für das Volk* with some luckless and immortal comments. The brain can not exist without its phosphorus-containing fat, he said, which may be built up from the phosphorus in meat, bread and peas, or obtained preformed in fish and eggs. He rambles on:

So it is jokingly remarked that a wise man has much phosphorus in his brain. No scientist would mean it seriously. For the composition of an organ suffers as much from excess as from deficiency . . . and therefore great thinkers avoid superfluous phosphorus. Yet it is true:—without phosphorus, no thought.²

William James disposes of the matter in his "Principles of Psychology,"³ and introduces Agassiz, the friend of Wyman and Lowell, in this passage:

"Ohne Phosphor, kein Gedanke" was a noted war-cry of the "materialists" during the excitement on that subject which filled Germany in the '60s. The brain, like every other organ of the body, contains phosphorus, and a score of other chemicals besides. Why the phosphorus should be picked out as its essence, no one knows. It would be equally true to say "Ohne Wasser kein Gedanke," or "Ohne Kochsalz kein Gedanke;" for thought would stop as quickly if the brain should dry up or lose its NaCl as if it lost its phosphorus. In America the

¹ They may be freely translated:

Fodder your beasts in a suitable way with light-giving
Phosphorus—
Wiser than Moleschott, they,—granted the dose be correct.

Feed them too little, you blight them, and make of them
stupidest asses;

Give but a grain too much—! See them all burnt to
a bone!!!

² Zweite Auflage. Erlangen, 1853, S. 120.

³ N. Y., 1890, Vol. 1, p. 101.