COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has received a gift of $15,000 from the Borden Company to be used for research in the field of food chemistry and nutrition, and $6,000 from an anonymous donor for the laboratory of surgical research.

WESTMINSTER Hospital Medical School, London, has been offered by A. J. H. Carlill £20,000 towards the establishment of a pathological unit as a memorial to his father.

THE Jefferson Medical College has created a department of bronchoscopy and esophagoscopy. Dr. Chevalier Jackson, professor of laryngology in the college, has been elected to the professorship of the new department. Dr. Fielding O. Lewis has been elected to fill the chair vacated by Dr. Jackson.

DR. GEORGE A. TALBERT, associate professor of physiology at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, has been appointed professor of physiology at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine.

DR. D. S. MORSE, of Cornell University, has been appointed assistant professor of mathematics at Union College.

DR. HARRY H. KNIGHT, assistant professor of entomology and curator of the insect collection at the Farm School of the University of Minnesota, has resigned to accept a similar position at the Iowa State College.

EDUARDO DIAZ LUQUE was recently appointed professor of physics at the Universidad Nacional in Mexico City; he is also doing work for the Mexican Light and Power Company.

PROFESSOR HENRY BRIGGS, who has been for several years professor of mining engineering in the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, has been appointed to the newly established chair of mining in the University of Edinburgh.

DR. HANS V. HABERER, of the University of Innsbruck, has been appointed professor of surgery at the University of Graz, to take the place of Professor v. Hacker.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ALKALINE REACTION OF THE COTTON PLANT

IN an article which has recently appeared under the above title (SCIENCE, September 19, 1924, page 268), Mr. J. E. Mills has referred to some observations published about a year ago by Mr. C. M. Smith regarding the alkaline reaction of the dew of the cotton plant (*J. Agric. Research*, 1923, *26*, 192). The subject was incidentally considered by Mr. Smith in connection with an investigation of "arsenical injury to plants," and from an examination made by him of dew collected from the plants, he was led to conclude that its alkalinity was to be attributed to the presence of the bicarbonates of calcium and magnesium. It was also observed by him that "the dew gave a reaction alkaline even to phenolphthalein," which he stated would indicate the presence of soluble hydroxide or salts of very weak acids. Mr. Mills has now noted (*loc. cit.*) that it would hardly seem possible that the alkalinity of the dew can be attributed to these compounds.

In collaboration with the Bureau of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture an investigation was undertaken by the undersigned for the purpose of determining the volatile constituents of the cotton plant and of ascertaining their attraction for the boll-weevil. This work was begun in the summer of 1923 and has continued to engage our attention to the present time. Although the complete results of this investigation will be published in due course in a scientific periodical, in view of the above-mentioned article by Mr. J. E. Mills and also the statements relating to the subject from time to time in the daily press it seems desirable that we should now place on record some of our observations.

The chemistry of the cotton plant is a very complex subject, and although much progress has been made in our investigation of it, considerable time will still be required for its complete elucidation. We now particularly wish to state that we believe the alkalinity of the dew of the cotton plant to be attributable, at least in part, to the presence of ammonia and trimethylamine, since we have determined the presence of these substances in it and have also obtained the same substances in very much larger amounts from the products of distillation of the cotton plant with steam. Both ammonia and trimethylamine are evidently emanations from the plant, and it has already been ascertained that the trimethylamine possesses a particular attraction for the boll-weevil. An account of the numerous other substances that have been isolated from the cotton plant and completely identified must be reserved for a future publication.

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RADIOACTIVITY OF RIPE TOMATOES

IN cooperation with the Bureau of Standards a project for experimental study was outlined in the