

HAROLD A. LARRABEE, who has just returned from a year of study in Europe on a fellowship from Harvard University, has been appointed assistant professor of psychology in the University of Vermont.

PAUL E. EATON, of Ithaca, N. Y., has been appointed assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Lafayette College.

APPOINTMENTS to the staff of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine have been made as follows: Dr. George Fetterolf, professor of otolaryngology, succeeding Dr. Burton Alexander Randall, retired; Dr. J. Claxton Gittings, professor of pediatrics, succeeding Dr. J. P. Crozer Griffiths, also retired, and Dr. William C. Stadie, assistant professor of research medicine.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### THE TEMPERATURE OF MARS

IN a note published in the issue of *SCIENCE* of October 24, *Science Service* announces the results of the measurements on Mars, taken at Mt. Wilson. These measurements indicate that the noonday temperature on the Martian equator is about 10° C. or 42° F. Then, referring to the results obtained at the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, previously announced in *SCIENCE* of September 26, in which the temperature of Mars under a noonday sun was found to be *up to* 20° C. (*sic*) the comment is made that these two "observations are not in complete agreement."

In view of the fact that this statement has already caused doubts in the minds of some of those uninitiated in the intricacies of the problem a few supplementary remarks are in order.

When we consider 10° C. with 20° C. then it is true that there is a difference of 10° C.—and this on a planet 34 millions of miles away. But it is of interest to note that, if two laboratories undertook to measure the radiation from some close-by terrestrial source, at 15° C., the chances are that their temperature estimates would differ by 10°—and they would not be harassed by the incompletely solved question of the spectral transmission of a dense atmosphere like that of the Earth, not to mention the everchanging clouds on Mars. But 10° C. difference has no significance in comparison with what has been accomplished as a whole. For instead of disagreement it means agreement. It means that for the first time in history two observatories, working independently, have arrived at the conclusion, radiometrically, that the noonday temperature of the surface of Mars is considerably above 0° C., which is the view held by astronomers who, for years, have been making the observations visually.

No wonder I am receiving protests from some who, relying upon calculations which indicate maximum temperatures far below 0° C., say "You are wrong." Quite naturally, it is comforting to me to see the Flagstaff work of 1922 (from which temperature estimates of 10° to 20° C. were obtained) and of the present opposition of Mars, confirmed by the powerful instruments at Mt. Wilson.

On the other hand, the calculators of planetary temperatures can take comfort in the remark, made by the late Professor Edward Morley, that the mathematical mill is no different from any other—you grind out what you put in, nothing more. When we have sufficient and accurate data, upon which to base our assumptions, the calculated planetary temperatures will no doubt be in agreement with the observations.

W. W. COBLENTZ

### TRENDS OF MODERN GEOGRAPHY

IN "Trends of modern geography" (*SCIENCE*, October 24, 1924, pp. 374–376), Dr. Clarence F. Jones has presented the viewpoint of a number of human ecologists, here and abroad, who would narrow the field of geography by relegating physical geography to another sphere. Nevertheless, every geographer, as part of his geographical training, must study the sciences of the land, the water and the air as the fundamental bases of modern geography; for no indifferently understood foundation can uphold the vast superstructure of human relationships to natural environment. No student at Clark, for example, is given a graduate degree in geography unless he can show a reasonable understanding of at least the following phases of geography: physiography, meteorology and climatology, soils, native vegetation, agricultural geography and land utilization, economic geography and anthropogeography. Should not then human ecology be recognized as but the crowning phase, rather than pressed on us as constituting the whole of geography? Can there be geography without the "geo-?"

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### NOTE REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF EAR CANCER IN RABBITS

As stated by David Marine, of Montefiore Hospital, New York, in *SCIENCE* of August 15, 1924, Vol. LX, p. 158, ear canker (*Psorocoptes cuniculi*) is one of the most troublesome diseases that has to be contended with in the rearing and care of rabbits. We have to be constantly on the alert to discover and treat it in the animal room of the Stanford Medical School. Our method, while different from the one recommended by Mr. Marine, is just as effective as the kerosene