

state in 1926. Isolated specimens of the pest have already been found in the western part of the state.

THE French Chamber of Deputies has provided for a tax of 5 centimes on each 100 francs paid in salaries by French commerce and industry. The products of the tax, which it is estimated will bring in about fourteen million francs a year, is to be allocated to French scientific laboratories.

THE collection of astronomical and mathematical instruments, dating back to the tenth century, and illustrating the early history of the sciences, which has been presented by Mr. Lewis Evans to Oxford University and housed in the Old Ashmolean building, was opened for public exhibition on May 5 by Lord Crawford. The degree of honorary doctor of science was conferred on Mr. Evans. A volume containing the *Transactions* of the Oxford Philosophical Society from 1683 to 1690, transcribed from the minute-book long preserved in the Ashmolean Museum, was published on the same date. The editor was Mr. R. T. Gunther, of Magdalen College, known for his researches in the early history of science.

THE Vienna Exposition of Hygiene was opened on April 28 by President Hainisch. The exhibition is divided into two parts—"the human body" and "the modern household." Austria and Germany cooperated in the work of establishing it, the well-known Dresden exhibit of hygiene forming its basis. Among interesting features are demonstrations by institutions for preventing tuberculosis and the treatment of chronic drunkards. The city of Vienna occupies a large space for showing modern institutions for social welfare, especially model tenements erected at the cost of the municipality of Vienna to solve the housing problem, as also land settlements outside of Vienna. These model tenements are said to surpass tenements anywhere in Europe or the United States in modern construction, labor-saving devices and space areas.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has received a gift of \$125,000 from Harold S. Vanderbilt to provide a gymnasium for students in the medical school. Provision is also made for payment of the salary of a competent gymnasium instructor during the next five years.

As a memorial to the late Marion Leroy Burton, president of the University of Michigan, \$100,000 has been collected, the income of which will be paid to Mrs. Burton during her life time and to her children until they reach the age of thirty years. Thereafter the fund will revert to the university.

SAMUEL INSULL, president of the Edison Commonwealth Company of Chicago, has made a gift of \$25,000 to Union College at Schenectady.

A LAW becomes effective on July 1 creating a board of regents, which has the authority and duties formerly conferred on the state board of administration, relating to the University of Kansas, Kansas State Agricultural College and its experiment stations and the Kansas State teachers colleges of Emporia, Hays and Pittsburg. The board will be composed of nine members appointed by the governor for a term of four years.

AT Vanderbilt University, Dr. Walter E. Garrey, professor of physiology at Tulane University, has been appointed professor of physiology; Dr. Barney Brooks, associate professor of clinical surgery at Washington University, St. Louis, professor of surgery; Dr. Horton Casparis, associate in pediatrics, the Johns Hopkins Medical School, associate professor of pediatrics; Dr. Francis A. Swett, instructor in anatomy at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, associate professor of anatomy; Dr. Arthur W. Wright, of the Boston City Hospital, assistant professor of pathology.

DR. EDWARD F. MALONE, professor of histology at the University of Cincinnati, has been appointed professor of anatomy in the medical college to succeed Dr. Henry McE. Knowler, who recently resigned.

PROFESSOR EMIL F. GUBA, of the department of plant pathology of Cornell University, has been appointed assistant research professor in botany at the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station at Amherst.

DR. GEORGE R. HARRISON, who received his college and university degrees from Stanford University, has been appointed assistant professor in the department of physics. He is at present a National Research Council fellow. He was graduated in 1919, became master of arts the next year and doctor of philosophy in 1922.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE ETHER DRIFT

THE recent important announcement by Professor Miller of the detection of an ether drift on the summit of Mt. Wilson makes it advisable for us to look carefully over the whole subject in its proper perspective.

The theory of relativity was not founded wholly upon the negative result of the Michelson-Morley experiment. There were other similar experiments with negative results and of equal importance, though not so generally known. Such were the experiments of Trouton and Noble, who looked for the production of a torque upon a suspended charged condenser; the experiments of Rayleigh and of Brace, who failed to find any trace of double refraction in transparent moving bodies, and certain experiments designed to