

Fujinami has many friends among the pathologists and parasitologists of the United States. He was a member of the Japanese medical commission which visited the medical centers of the United States in the spring of 1923 as guests of the Rockefeller Foundation."

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

G. E. MERRICK has donated a tract of land of 160 acres and \$5,000,000 toward establishment of a university in Miami, Florida. The university, which was granted a charter on April 5, will be non-sectarian and coeducational. Recitation and study rooms will be built on lines of open pavilions. A \$250,000 conservatory of music, \$200,000 for the arts department and a chapel have already been assured since the Merriek gift.

THE board of regents of the University of Maryland has approved a recommendation of President Albert F. Woods to appoint Dr. H. J. Patterson, who has been connected with the Maryland Agricultural College since 1888, director of the agricultural experiment station, as dean of the college of agriculture, and Professor P. W. Zimmerman, who has headed the latter department, assistant dean.

DR. ALFRED WORCESTER, of Waltham, has been appointed Henry K. Oliver professor of hygiene at Harvard University, to succeed Professor Roger I. Lee. Dr. Worcester will be also head of the department of hygiene and physical education.

At the University of Minnesota, Dr. William A. Riley has been appointed head of the department of animal biology, succeeding Professor Henry F. Nachtrieb, who is retiring at the close of forty years of service. Dr. Royal N. Chapman succeeds Dr. Riley as chief of the division of entomology and economic zoology. Both Dr. Chapman and Dr. Riley retain their double membership in the two departments and their work will be closely correlated. Dr. Clarence E. Mickel has been appointed assistant professor of systematic entomology and curator of the insect collection. Dr. Maynard S. Johnson, of the University of Illinois, has been appointed assistant professor of economic vertebrate zoology, and Harvey L. Sweetman, of the Iowa State College, as instructor in economic entomology.

DR. ADOLPH H. SCHULTZ, research associate of the department of embryology of the Carnegie Institution, has been appointed associate professor of physical anthropology at the Johns Hopkins University.

C. L. STEARNS, Ph.D., astronomer in the Yale University Observatory, has been elected research associate in astronomy in Wesleyan University. Dr.

Stearns will devote most of his time to observations with the 20-inch telescope of the Van Vleck Observatory in collaboration with Professors Slocum and Sitterly.

At the University of Colorado, Associate Professor P. G. Worcester has been promoted to a professorship of geology, and Russell Gibson to an associate professorship.

MAJOR K. W. BRAID, assistant in the herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has been appointed to the chair of agricultural botany in the West of Scotland Agricultural College, Glasgow.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### THE LABORATORY METHOD IN THE TEACHING OF BOTANY

I HAVE just read in your valued journal an article on William James Beal by Professor Ernst A. Bessey in which occur several historical errors which in the interest of the accuracy of the history of American education should not go uncorrected.

In the opening sentence it is said that the late Dr. Beal "began his botanical studies at a time when the idea of laboratory work by the student of botany was unheard of." Below the middle of the second paragraph it is stated that Louis Agassiz "introduced Dr. Beal to the laboratory method of study, a method not then used at Harvard by either Eliot or Gray." As a matter of fact, William James Beal began the study of science at Harvard in the year 1862-63 and took the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1865. When he entered the university Asa Gray had been teaching botany by the laboratory method for many years to advanced students who sought his instruction, using for the purpose the Botanic Garden and his own invaluable Herbarium. I was in charge of the Chemical Laboratory of the Lawrence Scientific School and had been for more than a year, and my teaching was given wholly by the laboratory method without formal lectures or recitations from books. From the year 1850 on I had been a pupil of Professor Josiah P. Cooke, as a pupil in his own private laboratory, and there was taught by him by the laboratory method only. He also took me with him on his frequent excursions to collect specimens for the Mineral Cabinet of Harvard of which he was the curator—again the laboratory method, though in the field.

In the last sentence of the second paragraph of Professor Bessey's article occurs the following statement: "it was not many years until Dr. Beal introduced the laboratory method of instruction for botany, at a time when this was a startling innovation." Considering the facts, that is a very misleading statement.