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 Merrick 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.

Professor Bessey says truly that Dr. Beal "came of Quaker stock and preserved to the end the sterling honesty of action and speech instilled in him by his parents." Therefore, he would certainly wish that the errors Professor Bessey made in the article published by you on May 29, 1925, should be corrected.

CHARLES W. ELIOT

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,
JUNE 2, 1925

THE METHOD OF SCIENCE

As a counterblast to numerous shocked and grieved allegations of the fundamentalists, various committees and groups of scientists have been issuing apologetic pronouncements, more or less measured in tone, but all alike striving to show that science is innocent of iconoclasm in things religious. And, in line with this, emphasis is laid more and more upon that part of scientific text books which disavows any effect of scientific teaching "to discredit the Bible." The careful report of the committee of California presidents, published in your issue of April 3, 1925, demonstrates this tendency with great clearness. The report itself, incidentally, refers to the "respect and consideration" due to "fundamental principles of religion, as presented in the Bible." Of course, the pressure even of a popular minority is an important factor in democratic control of educational policies: and yet, methinks, they do protest too much.

Am I incorrect in understanding that science is, fundamentally, a matter of method—a process that gains its sanction solely from its ascertainment of positive data and its treatment of these according to a recognized method of rational generalization? If I am not, is it a too reckless thing for scientists to come out openly and stand by their guns, not to defend conclusions but to assert their unqualified faithfulness to the method whereby they derive the only justification for their order in the intellectual life?

The scientist who gives preliminary pledges that his conclusions shall interfere with neither this nor that religion is no whit more reliable than the one who would similarly assure that his conclusions would never upset the complacency of the Nordics, the Vegetarians, the Geocentrists or any other body who have established themselves upon a conclusion which they are bound to maintain, willy nilly, to the bitter end.

Yet if they are not to do this, should they not abandon all this loose talk of religion and gods and Bibles, and frankly admit that, as scientists, they have nothing whatever to do with the matter, since it offers neither the datum nor the concept which is susceptible of treatment or entitled to recognition upon the scientific plane?

And ought not scientists, in committees or in groups as in individual cases, to stand openly forth before all apostles of reaction, whether called fundamentalists or voodoo magicians, and tell them in unmistakable English that the day has passed when truths should be sugar-coated to appease the prejudiced palates of the W. J. Bryans of the day?

For a century plain speaking has been a rarity in the churches. Heaven help us if it depart also from the halls of science.

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AT SUMATRA

A REPORT secured by Mr. Charles L. Hoover, American Consul at Batavia, Java, from the Royal Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory at Batavia, relating to weather conditions of Sumatra, for the information of expeditions wishing to study the eclipse of the sun in 1926, reads as follows:

The duration of sunshine has been estimated for every hour half from 8 A. M.–4 P. M. in a scale of 0–10, 0 being = entirely overcast, 10 = full record during the half hour.

The mean values express in percentages, are as follows:

Duration of sunshine, from 8 A. M.–4 P. M., in percentages.

	December 1924	January 1925	February 1925
Benkoelen	76	62	61
Palembang ...	48	56	51

In each of the 3 months the percentages of Benkoelen are the higher ones.

For the separate half hours, mean values of the 3 points, the following percentages are obtained:

Duration of sunshine in percentages, December, 1924–February, 1925

8 — 8:30	8:30 — 9	9 — 9:30	9:30 — 10	10 — 10:30	10:30 — 11	11 — 11:30	11:30 — 12	12 — 12:30	12:30 — 1	1 — 1:30	1:30 — 2	2 — 2:30	2:30 — 3	3 — 3:30	3:30 — 4
Benkoelen:															
62	63	65	67	71	72	70	72	70	68	72	70	68	65	57	49
Palembang:															
46	51	56	59	59	59	55	55	49	55	52	56	51	47	41	38
Difference:															
16	12	9	8	12	13	15	17	21	13	20	14	17	18	16	11