awarded to Pedro C. Sanchez, director of the Central Mexican Bureau of Geography and Climatology in recognition of his contributions to Mexican cartography. Senor Sanchez has been in charge of the geodetic service of Mexico since 1912. He is responsible for the topographic survey of the Federal District on the scale of 1:100,000; the map of the state of Vera Cruz, 1:400,000 (1918), and the Atlas Geográfico de la República de México (1920). He has also conducted explorations in little-known parts of his country.

The Cullum Geographical Medal for 1925 is awarded to Harvey C. Hayes, research physicist of the United States Navy, for his invention of the Sonic Depth Finder. This instrument designed in the interests of navigation has put into the hands of science a practical means of mapping the ocean floor in detail and of furnishing data for more effective study of continent building and of the general problem of isostasy.

The Cullum Geographical Medal for 1925 is awarded to Lucien Gallois, of the University of Paris, for his work in the advancement of geography. His earlier studies established his reputation in the field of historical geography. His later work, embracing both physical and human aspects and finding expression in regional studies, furnishes an admirable exposition of the broad modern concept of geography. By his efforts as teacher, as collaborator and editor of the *Annales de Géographie,* and as president of the Association de Géographes Français, and especially by the spirit and method of his writings, his influence has carried far afield.

REVISION OF EDUCATIONAL METHODS IN THE YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

A THOROUGHGOING revision of its educational methods with a view to placing less emphasis on routine class work and more on independent thought and research is planned by the Yale School of Medicine, according to an announcement made by Dean Milton C. Winternitz.

The faculty is considering the abolition of the year system of study and the resultant division of the student body into classes. This program will also involve the abolition of the system of examinations at the end of the different courses. The student will be allowed to select the sequence of his studies in the subjects which at present comprise the first two years of the medical curriculum, and then after qualifying for the clinical subjects, he will again be allowed liberty of choice. Their arrangement and his completion of them in any period of time will be largely a matter of his choice and ability. Admission to a course will depend on his fitness for the work as determined by the instructor in charge of it. This is the reverse of the present practice. A teacher now has no voice in determining what students shall enter his classes. He determines only whether they shall proceed into other classes. Thus, the student often thinks only of the examination which he is to take at the end of the year, and misses the application of the knowledge he is being offered.

Dean Winternitz made the following statement regarding the plan:

> These changes may seem radical but they are in accord with adopted systems of graduate education, and medical education is graduate education.
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> There must, of course, be some check on the students' accomplishments; group examinations, as well as the graduating thesis, will serve this purpose. For the convenience of the faculty such examinations may be given at fixed times, but within reasonable limits the student may determine when he will present himself for such a test.
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> Aside from other advantages, such a system will be equally valuable to the student who acquires knowledge rapidly and to his slower colleague. It is hoped that by the elimination of the class system, the pupil who acquires knowledge less rapidly will be less reluctant to spend more time in preparation, while the more brilliant scholar will be more willing to spend longer periods in investigation and specialization.

THE 1926 MEETING OF THE PACIFIC DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

THE 1926 annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Mills College, California, from June 16 to 19. Mills College is delightfully situated in the foothills near Oakland, California, and is easily accessible from all points of the San Francisco bay region. Established in 1852 it has played an important part in the intellectual life and development of the Pacific Coast and now stands unique as the only accredited college for women west of the Mississippi. With a campus of 150 acres, beautifully designed landscape and buildings, it will prove a most attractive and commodious meeting place for the annual meeting. As there is a large membership of the Pacific Division in this vicinity a very successful meeting is assured.

Preparations for the meeting are already in progress. A research conference, under the direction of President Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, will be arranged on the relation of the college to research. A symposium on the constitution of matter or a kindred subject will be arranged, with physicists of note participating, and one or more public addresses will be given by visiting European scientists.

It is likely that the greater portion of the 27