

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE has accepted a gift of \$300,000, the largest single trust fund ever received by the university for educational purposes, from Henry and William J. Wollman, of New York.

At the recent election in Louisville, the citizens voted about six to one to authorize the issue of \$1,000,000 in bonds for the University of Louisville, and \$5,000,000 for the public schools of that city.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY will receive \$20,100 by a bequest in the will of the late Charles Allen Munn, formerly editor and publisher of the *Scientific American*.

THE board of trustees of the University of Tennessee ratified on December 14 the expenditure of \$280,000 for the construction of the first unit in the \$1,000,000 program of expansion of the medical department of the university at Memphis.

DR. A. H. GIBSON, professor of engineering at the University of Manchester, has been elected dean of the faculty of science in the university.

DR. L. H. NEWMAN, formerly a fellow in medicine of the National Research Council under Professor Folin at the Harvard Medical School, has been appointed assistant professor of biochemistry at Howard University Medical School.

C. I. REED, former fellow in medicine of the National Research Council under Professor A. J. Carlson, University of Chicago, has been appointed as associate professor of physiology at Baylor University.

DR. JOSEPH K. BREITENBECHER, formerly professor of zoology at the University of Oklahoma, has been appointed to the teaching staff of McGill University.

DR. MAX MØLLER, of the University of Copenhagen, has arrived in Bangkok, Siam, to take the post of visiting professor of chemistry at the Chulalongkorn University under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation.

PROFESSOR LOTHAR SCHRUTKA, of the Brünn Technical School, has been appointed professor of mathematics at the Technical School at Vienna.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

SIMPLIFIED LITERATURE CITATIONS

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for November 6, 1925, Dean E. D. Merrill, of the University of California,

makes "an appeal for simplified literature citations." His appeal is based on substantial grounds as judged by current practice and it should meet with a cordial response from writers, editors and publishers.

In referring to the method of citing literature used by the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, however, it would have been fairer to that publication had he chosen a more recent issue to exemplify his point. Beginning with the issue of No. 1, Volume 28, April 5, 1924, the journal adopted its present simplified form of citations. Examination of that form will show that the simplifying process has been carried even further than Dean Merrill recommends.

Is there sufficient justification for the time-consuming process of verifying the exact number of each type of illustration? Innumerable difficulties arise when checking the plates, figures, maps, charts, diagrams and portraits, particularly in foreign publications. Why not use the present *Journal of Agricultural Research* style and simply state, "Illus.?" Or perhaps all reference to illustrations might well be omitted, as is now done in some publications.

Furthermore, so much difficulty was formerly encountered in bold-facing the volume number and having it appear correctly in type that the system was abandoned in favor of the much simpler method now used in the journal. Surely it is unnecessary to go to the trouble of bold-facing the volume number, if this form is used. No confusion is caused by this method and simplicity favors it.

M. C. MERRILL

OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ODDLY enough, on the same day that the writer read the letter, "An appeal for simplified literature citations" by E. D. Merrill in *SCIENCE* for November 6, he had already encountered similar difficulties, and had even thought of writing something on the subject.

Such difficulties, small in themselves, but typical of many experiences, will serve to emphasize the need of a uniform, and in some cases, more convenient form of citing references.

It is a regulation of this institute that references shall be presented in the same form as used in *Chemical Abstracts*. In consulting an English publication, and quoting a paper that included a bibliography, the question at once arose as to whether the references were in the proper form. The translation of one style to another should certainly not be necessary, nor should the question ever arise to change one's train of thought, for the loss is not merely the few seconds or minutes required in comparing each refer-