

vard visiting professor for the western circuit of Grinnell, Colorado College and Pomona. The excursion was made by eleven instructors and twenty-three students from the Southern Branch of the University of California, the University of Southern California, Occidental College, California Institute of Technology, Pomona College and Riverside Junior College. There were also three guests.

THE 1926 program of the Astronomy and Physics Club of Pasadena has included the following: January 8—"Report on the Kansas City Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science," Dr. Chas. E. St. John; January 15—"The Theory of Electrostatic Alternation," Dr. A. W. Simon; January 22—"Solar Variations and the Weather," N. W. Cummings; January 29—"Present Status of Stellar Interferometer Work," Mr. Francis G. Pease; February 5—"Reflection of Light from a Discontinuous Layer," Dr. Paul S. Epstein; February 12—"The Mount Wilson Experiment on Ether Drift," Dr. Dayton C. Miller; February 19—"Medical Applications of X-Rays," Dr. A. W. Simon; February 26—"The Life and Work of Augustus Fresnel," Dr. Paul S. Epstein; March 5—"Interferometer Measurements on Fine Structure of the Balmer Series," Dr. W. V. Houston, National Research Council.

THE Sigma Xi Alumni Association of the University of Pittsburgh heard the following program by the Oil and Gas School on February 25: "New Methods for appraising Oil Properties," Roswell H. Johnson. "An Investigation of the New Methods for extracting Petroleum," Ransom E. Somers. "The Oil Well Decline Curve," Leo C. Morgan. "Predicting Change of Price of Petroleum," Wm. Foraker. "Experimental Studies in the Flow of Fluids through a Porous Rock from two Entrance Points," Harold Hoffman (posthumous). "A New Barometer," I. Ivanoff.

THE Wollaston medal of the Geological Society of London was awarded to Henry Fairfield Osborn, now senior geologist of the United States Geological Survey, on February 19, as already noted in *SCIENCE*. President F. A. Bather, in his address of presentation of the medal through the American Embassy in London, concluded as follows: "During recent years he has directed a systematic search for fossils in the Cretaceous and Tertiary strata of Mongolia and large and important collections of previously unknown forms have been obtained, which he is now studying. Not his least service to science has been the foundation of a flourishing school of vertebrate paleontology, which already includes the names of a number of brilliant men of science, who are working in cordial cooperation under his inspiring leadership."

GOVERNOR HENRY L. WHITFIELD has signed the bill prohibiting teaching in state-supported schools of Mississippi that man "ascended or descended from a lower order of animals."

THE American Medical Association has begun the publication of a new special journal under the title *Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*. The first number appeared in January. The editorial board consists of the following: Ludvig Hektoen, Chicago; Simeon B. Wolbach, Boston; William Opshuls, San Francisco; James Ewing, New York; Alfred Stengel, Philadelphia; William G. MacCallum, Baltimore.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A NEW gift of \$4,000,000 to Northwestern University for the use of the medical and dental schools has been made by Mrs. Montgomery Ward, of Chicago. About two years ago Mrs. Ward donated an equal sum for the same schools. The Montgomery Ward Memorial Building, on the McKinlock Memorial campus, is being constructed with the aid of the fund.

It is announced that the University of Chicago has raised \$7,500,000 of the \$17,000,000 development fund which the university is attempting to raise.

JUDD HALL, Wesleyan University, will be remodeled soon to provide better and adequate facilities for the departments of biology and geology. This move is made possible by the removal of the department of chemistry to the new Hall laboratory of chemistry, which is now rapidly nearing completion.

ON March 15 ground was broken for the new botany building of the college of science, literature and the arts of the University of Minnesota, to be erected and equipped at a cost of \$225,000.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has granted 3,000,000 francs to the faculty of medicine of Strasbourg to build an institute of histology and an otolaryngologic clinic and to subsidize research workers.

JAMES M. CORK, assistant professor of physics at the University of Michigan, will join the staff of the University of Manchester as exchange professor during the next school year, while J. M. Nuttall, senior lecturer and assistant director of the physical laboratories of that university, will come to Michigan.

DR. GEORGE P. CLINTON, lecturer on forest pathology in the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, has been appointed research associate in the university with professorial rank.

DR. G. V. ANREP has been appointed to a readership in physiology at the University of London, tenable at University College.

At the University of Pisa, the office of rector has passed from the hands of Professor D'Acchiardi to Professor Vittorio Aducco, director of the Institute of Physiology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE LIFE HISTORY OF A FAKE!

JUST twenty-three years ago there occurred at this place an episode which may be taken as a typical example of the persistence of error, even in spite of pains to correct it. This is brought vividly to my attention by a letter just received, asking for information concerning the occurrence in Onondaga Lake of marine squids, citing a reference to it in Price's "The New Geology" where (page 584) the following statement occurs: "Lake Onondaga, once a part of Lake Ontario, contains marine squids." And this is but one of a number of such inquiries within recent years. It seems well, therefore, in the interest of scientific verity, to submit a brief review of this case, hoping to contribute thereby toward an end of an unfortunate error.

At that time a specimen was brought to me which was reported to have been captured in this lake. Fortunately, I had at command specimens of this animal which were used in the biology laboratory, and placing one before the reporter, asked him to compare his own specimen with it. "As you will see, these specimens are very closely alike, but mine came from the sea coast of Massachusetts. They are never found in fresh waters or in lakes such as Onondaga." He was not satisfied, however, with my version, so consulted Principal John Wilson, of Syracuse, a geologist whom I knew well and esteemed highly, and told him the same story as to me. Knowing well the geology of the salt deposits which were located in this section, Mr. Wilson was at once interested in the matter and promised to investigate it. The reporter was too eager, however, to get a good story, so did not wait for investigation, and in consequence, the city papers contained marvelous announcements of a great find of marine animals in Onondaga Lake!

Mr. Wilson also reported the case to Dr. J. M. Clarke, state geologist, giving him such accounts as he had been able to glean. Clarke immediately reported the matter to SCIENCE, where it appeared December 12, 1902, page 947. The present writer immediately communicated with Dr. Clarke touching the matter and assured him that the case was entirely too "fishy" to warrant the publicity which

he had given to it and called his attention to the fact that the implications that these specimens were taken alive were unfounded and giving facts which strongly discounted that view. Attention was called to the place and time where the specimens were found, to the statements of Mr. Wilson that the restaurant at the iron pier at this season served as a specialty baked clams, chowder, raw and cooked oysters, etc., continuously. It was well known that these supplies were obtained from the sea coast, packed in barrels, the specimens covered with masses of seaweed which supplied moisture during the shipment to Syracuse. It was also noted that the debris from these shellfish was dumped into the lake. The writer thinks it highly probable that in this packing stuff and debris which went into the lake were perhaps incidentally these vagrant specimens of squids.

Clarke later sent a specimen for critical investigation and report to Dr. A. E. Ortmann, of Princeton University, a curator of invertebrate paleontology. His investigations and conclusions were reported in SCIENCE for January 2, 1903 (page 30), in which he states that the specimen proves to belong to the well-known species of our northeastern Atlantic coast; "the cold water, or short-finned squid. The specimen has been compared with the description given by Verrill, and with the well-preserved specimens (male and female) of this species from Provincetown, Massachusetts, preserved in the collection of the Museum of Biology, Princeton University." Therefore he arrived at the conclusion that "the present individual is in no wise different from *Illex illecebrosus* of our northeastern coast, a species abundant from Cape Cod to Newfoundland."

Concerning the matter of the species living in Onondaga Lake, Ortmann says:

I am loth to believe that the species lives in the lake. In this connection I venture only one suggestion; this squid is largely used for bait, and the capture of squids forms a regular trade on our northeastern coast. Could it not be possible that somebody secured by purchase a barrel of squid to be used for bait in this locality where our specimen was found?

To conclude: So far as the present writer is aware, this error gained currency chiefly through geologic channels; first, in the hasty and misleading announcements of the state geologist, whose experience and official station should have prompted caution. Second, Pierson and Schuchert's "Text-book of Geology," 1915, page 493, and in a later edition (1920), page 493, under the heading "Relic Seas and Lakes," states "Squids are still present, though rarely, in Lake Onondaga, once a tributary of Lake Ontario." In Lull's "Organic Evolution," 1917, page 79, the case is cited apparently from these sources. The citation by Price (above) is probably from this source