

THE jubilee of the Association pour l'Avancement des Sciences will be celebrated at the 1926 congress of the association, which is to be held at Lyons from July 26 to 31. A large scientific exhibition has been organized in connection with the congress, with pharmacological, radiological, psychological and other medical sections.

THE Fourteenth International Geological Conference held its inaugural meeting on May 24 in the new hall of the Geological Institute. King Alfonso presided. Thirteen hundred delegates from all over the world were present in Madrid for the congress, which for purposes of work was divided into eleven sections. The Spanish committee responsible for the organization of the congress planned thirteen excursions to places of geological interest in the Peninsula, the Canaries, the Balearic Islands and North Morocco. The delegates also had an opportunity of visiting Toledo and the Escorial and were entertained by the Municipality and at the Royal Palace.

FORMER SENATOR JOSEPH S. FRELINGHUYSEN, of New Jersey, headed the American delegation to the International Conference of Experts on Oil Pollution of Navigable Waters, which met in Washington on June 8. Congress, in 1922, authorized the president to call a conference of maritime nations with a view to the adoption of effective means for the prevention of pollution of navigable waters. The use of oil as fuel by vessels and the evils that result, including pollution of bathing beaches, harbors and shore property, and the consequent detriment to property and health, shore recreation, increased fire hazard and injury to the fishing industry and wild life, were discussed. Plans for an agreement of maritime nations to control oil pollution have long been hoped for. The following countries indicated their acceptance of invitations to attend the conference: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

THE Sixth Congress of Industrial Chemistry will open at Brussels on September 17. This year the congress will be devoted to the leading chemical industries of Belgium, and the meeting will revolve around the six large permanent groups of the Société de Chimie Industrielle: I—Plant and Laboratory, II—Combustibles, III—Metallurgy and Mineral Industries, IV—Organic Industries, V—Agriculture and Agricultural Industries and VI—Economic Organization. In order to facilitate discussion these groups are subdivided into various sections. In order to take part in this meeting it will be necessary to be registered as a member of the congress. Registration cards may be obtained on request to the Secretary of the Congress, 65, rue du Canal, Brussels, Belgium. The delegates

from the American Chemical Society are George W. Muhleman, professor of chemistry at Hamline University, and J. V. N. Dorr, of the Dorr Company.

CHEMISTRY's developing influence in modern civilization will be a chief theme of the 1926 Conference of the Institute of Politics at Williamstown, Mass., according to an announcement by President James F. Norris, of the American Chemical Society. Leading men of science from the United States, Great Britain and the Continent will participate. The board of advisers of the Institute of Politics, Dr. Norris said, has unanimously adopted "The Rôle of Chemistry in the Future Affairs of the World" as the central topic for discussions, which will be organized and directed with the cooperation of the American Chemical Society. It is proposed to discuss such topics as future food supplies, energy (present and future sources and their utilization), chemistry in conservation, stressing wastes in industry and increased efficiency in production, synthetic *versus* natural products, chemical developments in their relation to labor, chemistry in world domination through commerce and in national defense and the relation of chemistry to world health.

A new catalogue of the British national collection of type cultures has been issued, which lists over 2,000 living strains of bacteria. The collection was under arrangement with the Lister Institute, where the collection is housed. Its object is the collection and maintenance of authentic strains of recognized bacteria and protozoa for use in scientific work. It includes both pathogenic organisms and strains of economic significance, while it has recently added cultures of fungi of importance in plant-pathology, medicine, veterinary science, technology and soil bacteriology. The staff are willing to help in the identification of strains received from workers both at home and abroad; and last year over 4,000 cultures were distributed to workers throughout the world.

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## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

It is announced that the campaign fund of the New York Homeopathic Medical College and Flower Hospital has reached \$500,000, of which sum Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness presented \$100,000 for a department of physiology. Dr. Walter G. Crump also gave \$60,000 for the equipment of this department. On June 2 the new college laboratory was dedicated and a statue of Dr. E. Guernsey Rankin, who died two years ago after serving Flower Hospital for many

years, was unveiled. Mrs. Harkness's gift of \$100,000 was donated in memory of Dr. Rankin and the new department of physiology will be established in his name.

ROBERT LAW, JR., of New York, has given \$80,000 to the development fund of the University of Chicago. The fund now amounts to \$7,548,000, two million dollars having been contributed by the alumni.

THE late William Potter, president of Jefferson Medical College and Hospital, has bequeathed \$50,000 in his will to the college.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., has given to the University of Strasbourg the sum of three and a half million francs for the enlargement of the nose and ear clinic and for the completion of various unfinished researches.

PROFESSOR ROSWELL C. GIBBS, of the department of physics at Cornell University, has been appointed acting dean of the College of Arts and Science during the absence on leave for the second term of Professor Robert M. Ogden.

DR. WHEELER P. DAVEY, for twelve years a member of the research laboratory of the General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York, has resigned to accept the professorship of physical chemistry at the Pennsylvania State College. He will have charge of instruction in physical chemistry and chemical physics, and will continue his researches in the nature of solids and liquids, crystalline and colloid. Dr. E. D. Ries, now instructor in the department of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed associate professor of chemical engineering. Dr. Eugene Lorand, formerly technical adviser to the Anglo-Hungarian Bank at Budapest, Hungary, has been appointed assistant professor of industrial research.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR L. L. SMAIL, of the University of Texas, has been appointed to an associate professorship of mathematics at Lehigh University.

DR. GEORGE BACHMANN, professor of physiology in the School of Medicine of Emory University, has been offered the chair of physiology at the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia.

DR. F. M. ROWE, of the University of Manchester, has been elected to the chair of color chemistry and dyeing at the University of Oxford, from October 1 next, in succession to Professor A. G. Perkins.

PROFESSOR A. J. CLARK, professor of pharmacology in University College, London, has been chosen to succeed the late Professor A. R. Cushny in the chair of materia medica in the University of Edinburgh.

## DISCUSSION

### HUMAN TAILS

IN SCIENCE for April 2, 1926, I stated that I had discovered that the photograph of an Igorot with a tail, which I had published in my book on God and Evolution, was a fake, erroneously believed by me to be a genuine photograph. The sale of the book was immediately stopped. Two new photographs, unquestionably authentic, have been substituted and the book is again on sale. One is a case published by Professor Ross G. Harrison, of Yale, in the Johns Hopkins Bulletin for 1901, Volume 12, page 96. The other was first described in *La Naturaliste*, of Paris, for March 1, 1889, p. 53, being reported by Etienne Rabaud. It was reproduced in the *Scientific American*, Vol. LX, 1889, pp. 295 and 296. The use of the fake photograph is greatly to be regretted, though it's being false does not in the least affect my argument, as there are many genuine cases on record.

May I also add some other significant facts which speak loudly in proof of man's animal ancestry? With the exception of the kangaroo and the platypus, every mammal, from the lowest up to and including man, has a navel. The reason for this is that all mammalian embryos obtain from the mother's blood oxygen and food through the placenta (the after-birth), and also through the same medium get rid of the carbon dioxide and other noxious products of growth. A cord, the "navel-string," containing an artery and a vein, connects with the placenta at one end and enters into connection with the circulation of the embryo after passing through the navel.

Again, the very name "mammal" is derived from the breast or in Latin "mamma." In the female, the breasts provide food for the baby. In the male they are usually rudimentary. But note also two additional facts. In the male, not only is there always a nipple but in not a few cases, a real but imperfect breast exists, and is subject to the same diseases as is the normal female breast. For instance, I have operated in three case of cancer of the male breast. Many such cases have been reported.

Again there are seen not infrequently persons with super-numerary or extra nipples, occasionally with breasts behind the nipples. These may follow the double row of normal breasts, as seen for instance in a female dog, but very frequently they deviate considerably from the exact lines of the two rows. Many such cases have also been reported.

Such extra nipples and breasts may also be hereditary in both sexes. Hansemann mentions one case in which a father who possessed such extra nipples transmitted the same peculiarity to three of his sons