fessor James Perrin Smith has remarked to the writer, "A new species is a new species, no matter where it is found."

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THE PRICE OF HONOR

"Ph.D." 's letter in SCIENCE for April 16 moves me to quote a letter written me on May 28, 1925, from this same Professor Fritz Holm, G.D.G., LL.D., D.C.L., D.Lit., Chamberlain to His Royal Highness the Count of Caserta (Prince Alphonse of Bourbon-Sicily, Head of the Royal House of Naples).

On that occasion His Excellency's secretary informed me that His Excellency (then residing in Paris) had "read with interest and admiration of your Science League to combat silly attitudes by lawgivers and others towards questions of evolution, etc. His Excellency wishes me to inform you, that you may use his name in the literature of your league in capacity of honorary vice-president or simply vice-president."

I replied that the officers of the Science League of America were elected, that only members were eligible to office, and that membership was $3 a year. No reply was vouchsafed me. Evidently the "dollars (or bills)" are all supposed to flow in one direction!

MAYNARD SHIPLEY,
President, Science League of America

QUOTATIONS

CHEMISTRY AND DISEASE

DR. CHARLES H. HERTY recently pointed out that we spent annually $1,015,000,000 to keep our 115,000,000 bodies in repair, as follows:

Drugs, including patent medicines	$ 500,000,000
Doctors' services (estimated on basis of average income per doctor per year of $1,500)	220,000,000
5% interest on the $624,000,000 of hospital investments in lands, buildings and furnishings	31,000,000
Hospital maintenance	264,000,000
	$1,015,000,000

In commenting on this, Senator Ransdell, of Louisiana, in a speech supporting a bill providing for the appropriation of $20,000,000 for the study of the cause, prevention and cure of disease, asked whether it would not be worth while to spend a few millions a year in order to determine whether this vast bill of a billion could not be reduced. Much has been done privately, notably by the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, the Carnegie Institution of Washington and other institutes and laboratories. But in most of these institutions comparatively little time is allowed for concentrated work on problems of major importance, or opportunity given for cooperative effort of the chemist, the biologist, the pharmacologist, the therapeutist and the physiologist.

Senator Ransdell's bill, which he "hopes will be favorably acted upon at the next session of Congress," contemplates the enlargement of the Hygienic Laboratory of the Public Health Service into a chemo-medical research laboratory. Specifically, it provides for an appropriation of $2,000,000 a year for five years for this enlargement, and in addition $10,000,000 to establish an academy of health in the District of Columbia or its vicinity. In such an institution a joint attack may be made on fundamental problems of medicine by leaders in chemistry, physics, biology, pharmacology and medicine, just as, out in California, physicist, astronomer and chemist have brigaded their efforts in an attack upon the forces of the atom. A similar coordination of effort was made by scientists in search for poisonous gas during the war.

Research service in conservation of the health of the nation should not be left entirely to private interest, however generous, zealous and intelligent. Particularly is it desirable that chemistry should be brought back, in its highest development as a science, to the aid of the physician in the prevention of disease and the alleviation of suffering. It has turned its attention in recent decades mainly to the production of wealth in the industries. It has a higher ministry before it if it can be brought to cope with disease in time of peace, as its aid was invoked by the government for destruction during the war. We have gone further in our federal departments in concern for the health of the lower animals, and even of trees and plants, than we have for that of human beings.—The New York *Times*.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

A History of British Earthquakes. By CHARLES DAVISON. Cambridge, at the University Press, 1924.

THE authentic history of British earthquakes begins, according to the author of this accurate chronicle, with the year 974 A. D. Earlier occurrences, whose reality can hardly be doubted, but whose dates and places are not identifiable and whose character may be open to suspicion, are classed as legendary. We have here the keynote to Dr. Davison's work. It is scrupulously precise. Possibly mistaken or spurious records are rigidly excluded from his accounts, which nevertheless include 1,191 shocks in 950 years, 974 to 1924.

Geographical limitations are equally definite. The