

Bureau of Entomology as a specialist in beetles. This collection comprises fleas, lice and other ectoparasites, and is the largest addition in this group ever received by the museum.

A FUND of \$1,500 to establish a fellowship in chemical engineering for pulp and paper research has been accepted from the Northwest Paper Company of Cloquet, Minn., by the University of Wisconsin. George Brabender, of Peshtigo, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with the class of 1925, will conduct the work under the direction of Professor O. L. Kowalke, of the department of chemical engineering. In tendering the fellowship the Northwest Paper Company indicated its intention to continue it indefinitely if the preliminary work proves of sufficient merit.

MORE than 900 specimens of Siamese birds have been added to the collection at the United States National Museum through a large shipment of skins received from Dr. Hugh M. Smith, who is now in Siam. Dr. Smith will remain there for some time investigating the fish fauna for the Siamese government. During that time he also plans to send further collections to the United States.

AN orchid garden containing 7,000 plants and representing many species of the tropical flower has been taken over by the Missouri Botanical Garden from C. W. Powell, of Balboa. Mr. Powell has made a special study of the orchids of Panama and has more than doubled the number of species formerly known from that country, besides discovering more than a hundred new species. The orchid garden will be maintained in the Canal Zone as an experimental tropical garden.

ACCORDING to a special cable to the New York *Times* annual public lectures on health and disease for the benefit of the public will be conducted, beginning next year, by the British Medical Association in response to pressure from many sources. This decision of the council of the association follows the recent address before the general body by Sir Thomas Horder, in which he declared that the public had decided it wanted lectures on health and meant to have them. The association has in the past frowned on popular medical lectures, on the ground that they were unethical.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A GIFT of \$3,385,000 has been made to the University of Chicago by the General Education Board for the medical school. The gift is contingent upon the obtaining by the university of an additional \$2,000,000.

By the will of the late Mrs. Gertrude Baldwin Woods, of Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University will receive \$20,000 and Oberlin College \$25,000.

At the Harvard Medical School, Dr. James B. Ayer has been named clinical professor of neurology and will take the place of Dr. Edward W. Taylor, who has resigned.

DR. H. R. KRAYBILL, formerly bio-chemist at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, has been appointed professor of agricultural chemistry in Purdue University and state chemist and seed commissioner.

PROFESSOR H. S. UHLER has resigned as head of the department of physics at Gettysburg College to become associate professor of physics in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University.

DR. SAMUEL STUART MACKEOWN, of the research department of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company in New York, has been appointed assistant professor of electrical engineering at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

DR. L. R. VAN WERT, of the Harvard Engineering School, has been appointed assistant professor of metallurgy in the college of engineering at the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

DR. NATHAN L. DRAKE has recently been appointed professor of industrial chemistry at the University of Maryland.

DR. N. M. GRIER has been appointed head of the department of biology at Des Moines University, Iowa.

DR. HARVEY ALFRED ZINSZER, formerly instructor of physics at Lehigh University, has been appointed acting professor of physics in Mississippi State College for Women at Columbus.

JOSEPH C. CHAMBERLIN, until recently attached to the department of entomology of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station, has accepted a teaching position in the department of biology of the San José State Teachers College.

THE council of the University of Leeds have appointed E. L. E. Wheateroft, M.A. (Cambridge), to the newly-created chair of electrical engineering.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE AN OCCIDENTAL BUDDHIST'S CONCEPTION OF PERSONALITY

THE following quotation from Lafcadio Hearn¹ seems of considerable interest, especially in view of

¹ "Gleanings from Buddha Fields," pp. 92-94.

the fact that he probably knew absolutely nothing of Mendelian inheritance. It recalls delightfully Professor Jennings's address years ago in Princeton as president of the American Society of Naturalists.

Whether you (by *you* I mean any other agglomeration of souls) really wish for immortality as an agglomeration, I cannot tell. But I confess that "my mind to me a kingdom is"—not! Rather it is a fantastical republic, daily troubled by more revolutions than ever occurred in South America; and the nominal government, supposed to be rational, declares that an eternity of such anarchy is not desirable. I have souls wanting to soar in air, and souls wanting to swim in water (seawater, I think), and souls wanting to live in woods or on mountain tops. I have souls longing for the tumult of great cities, and souls longing to dwell in tropical solitude;—souls, also, in various stages of naked savagery;—souls demanding nomad freedom without tribute;—souls conservative, delicate, loyal to empire and to feudal tradition, and souls that are Nihilists, deserving Siberia;—sleepless souls, hating inaction, and hermit souls, dwelling in such meditative isolation that only at intervals of years can I feel them moving about;—souls that have faith in fetiches;—polytheistic souls;—souls proclaiming Islam;—souls mediaeval, loving cloister shadow and incense and glimmer of tapers and the awful altitude of Gothic glooms. Cooperation among all these is not to be thought of: always there is trouble,—revolt, confusion, civil war. The majority detest this state of things: multitudes would gladly emigrate. And the wiser minority feel that they need never hope for better conditions until after the total demolition of the existing social structure.

I an individual,—an individual soul! Nay, I am a population,—a population unthinkable for multitude, even by groups of a thousand millions! Generations of generations I am, aeons of aeons! Countless times the concourse now making me has been scattered, and mixed with other scatterings. Of what concern, then, the next disintegration? Perhaps, after trillions of ages of burning in different dynasties of suns, the very best of me may come together again.

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PROFESSOR OSBORN ON THE MAMMALS AND THE BIRDS OF THE CALIFORNIA TAR POOLS

IN the magazine *Natural History*, Volume XXV, pages 527-543, Professor H. F. Osborn has a paper on certain mural paintings in the American Museum of Natural History. These depict the trapping of Pleistocene mammals and birds in the asphalt pits near Los Angeles. Professor Osborn places the scenery and the existence and activities of the La Brea animals in the Ice Age. The mountains were there

as now, but their summits were covered with snow, and this snow reached much farther down the mountainsides than it does now, even in winter time. He has, therefore, had his artists represent the higher peaks as heavily mantled in white.

Professor Osborn proposes a new theory to account for the presence of so many large animals in the tar pits. Instinctively the creatures avoided the dangerous pools, except perhaps during seasons of drought. Then they risked their lives to quench their thirst with the water thinly covering the treacherous tar. Would that the author of the theory had presented some evidence to show that, during that boreal climate and in that topographical situation, there was any such dearth of water. Even in the heat of summer at least a few streamlets probably descended into that rancho from the Santa Monica Mountains. Surely around the borders of the snow drifts of Old Baldy and of Mount Wilson, both plainly in sight, the thirsty animals might have found safe footing and water refreshing and abundant.

Professor Osborn suggests that intelligence, or the lack of it, played their part in the catastrophe. Three times as many camels and bisons were caught in the tar as of horses. Inasmuch as seventeen horses were entrapped and only thirteen Shasta sloths, the latter must have been rather superior beasts; but how can we measure the stupidity of the two thousand tigers and the three thousand wolves which perished there?

The earliest division of the Pleistocene epoch was one of the glacial stages. Ralph Arnold tells us (*Mem. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, vol. III, p. 66) that at this time the Lower San Pedro beds were deposited and that they are filled with the shells of cold water mollusks. They repose on late Pliocene beds which also contain boreal mollusks. We have, therefore, evidence within a few miles of Rancho La Brea that the Pleistocene opened with a stage of cold climate.

Therefore, were there at that time and place any such animals as Professor Osborn is dealing with? Many of the mammals and of the birds were immigrants from South America; the native species were not of boreal, but warm temperate habit. It is evident, therefore, that Professor Osborn has referred his fauna to the wrong stage and the wrong kind of stage.

Immediately after the Lower San Pedro cold stage the Upper San Pedro beds were laid down; and these indicate a warm climate. As Arnold says (*op. cit.*, p. 29), the marine fauna living at San Pedro more nearly resembled that now existing on the coast two or three hundred miles farther south. In these beds, at San Pedro, species of mammals have been found which occur at La Brea, among them *Elephas*.