This letter evidently crossed in the mails Huxley's letter of criticism of the "Origin," dated November 23, which appears in full in "The Life and Letters of Huxley" and in "Charles Darwin, Autobiography and Letters" (p. 225), and from which a few quotations may be interesting here:

I finished your book yesterday [advance copy], a lucky examination having furnished me with a few hours of continuous leisure. . . .

As to the first four chapters, I agree thoroughly and fully with all the principles laid down in them. I think you have demonstrated a true cause for the production of species, and have thrown the *onus probandi*, that species did not arise in the way you suppose, on your adversaries. . . .

The only objections that have occurred to me are, 1st that you have loaded yourself with an unnecessary difficulty in adopting *Natura non facit saltum* so unreservedly. . . . And 2nd, it is not clear to me why, if continual physical conditions are of so little moment as you suppose, variation should occur at all. . . .

Looking back over my letter, it really expresses so feebly all I think about you and your noble book that I am half ashamed of it; but you will understand that, like the parrot in the story, "I think the more."

To this letter Darwin, who at the time was at Ilkley, replied on November 25:

My dear Huxley,—Your letter has been forwarded to me from Down. Like a good Catholic who has received extreme unction, I can now sing "nunc dimittis." I should have been more than contented with one quarter of what you have said. Exactly fifteen months ago, when I put pen to paper for this volume, I had awful misgivings; and thought perhaps I had deluded myself, like so many have done, and I then fixed in my mind three judges, on whose decision I determined mentally to abide. The judges were Lyell, Hooker, and yourself. It was this which made me so excessively anxious for your verdict. . . .

My dear Huxley, I thank you cordially for your letter.

Yours very sincerely.

Darwin's priceless letter of November 24, apparently now published for the first time, was most generously presented by Leonard Huxley to Professor Osborn during his recent visit to London; it will ultimately find its way to the Darwin Hall in the American Museum of Natural History to be placed beside the statue of Darwin near the equally priceless manuscript page from the "Origin" presented to the Museum by Major Leonard Darwin.

Professor Osborn immediately endeavored to secure a copy of the first printing of the "Origin of Species," of date November 24, 1859, and finally was so fortunate as to purchase one for the museum at a recent sale. This copy bears the inscription J. Bute Jukes (the geologist). It was learned through Professor Edward B. Poulton, the leading Darwin scholar of Oxford University, that the first printing and edition may be recognized by the presence on page 184 of the following passage, which was omitted in subsequent printings:

In North America the black bear was seen by Hearne swimming for hours with widely open mouth, thus catching, like a whale, insects in the water. Even in so extreme a case as this, if the supply of insects were constant, and if better adapted competitors did not already exist in the country, I can see no difficulty in a race of bears being rendered, by natural selection, more and more aquatic in their structure and habits, with larger and larger mouths, till a creature was produced as monstrous as a whale.

Certainly the subsequent editions of the "Origin" were materially improved by the omission of this fabulous story of the habits of the black bear, which probably goes back to an early period of the development of natural history in North America.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

WOODSOME LODGE,
GARRISON, NEW YORK,
October 12, 1926

MAMMOTH FOUND IN LOESS OF WASHINGTON

THE bones of a mammoth (Elephas primigenius) have been found in a loess deposit a mile southwest of Cheney, Washington. The fossils were found on a hillside and occurred at the top of glacial till overlain by loess. A farmer plowed up a bone and digging unearthed the remains, which were close to the surface. The till is well weathered and is probably the earliest of three known glacial periods in eastern Washington. Many of the bones had completely decayed, but the teeth were well preserved. It is probable that the mammoth lived and died in an interglacial period earlier than that which immediately preceded the Wisconsin stage of glaciation. While a considerable mammalian fauna has been found in the loess of the Mississippi Valley, so far as the writer is aware this is the first occurrence of fossils reported from the loess or Palouse soil of eastern Washington, although several mammoths have been found in peat bogs.

O. W. FREEMAN

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
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A CORRECTION

ON page 402 of SCIENCE for October 22 the announcement is made (doubtless official) that I will

address the agronomists on December 3 on statistical methods. This statement has never been authorized by me and in fact I have more than once assured the secretary of this society that I would make no decision with respect to consenting to speak on this occasion until certain conditions had been complied with. There has been no indication that the conditions will be complied with. I seriously object to being dragooned into giving public talks by being announced as a speaker before I have consented to speak. I shall not make the address announced for me.

E. B. WILSON

DEPARTMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

QUOTATIONS

DR. WELCH'S NEW CHAIR

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY in establishing a chair for the history of medicine, believed to be the first of such scope in America, is emphasizing the importance of the physician's background. In no other profession, unless it be the ministry, is a background more important than in that which has to do with progress in knowledge and treatment of bodies in which there is something, as Dr. Thomas Browne said, "that can be without us and will be after us, though it is strange that it hath no history what it was before us nor can not tell how it entered in us." But history in the hands of physicians and surgeons and research students has been written during the three centuries since that physician who desired to be remembered only in the "universal register of God," wrote his "Religio Medici." No one in America knows that history better than Dr. William H. Welch, who is to be the first occupant of the first American chair in this subject.

Dr. Welch has already two major achievements to his credit. In 1884 he organized the faculty of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, and in 1916 he organized the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. In the first he led "a new departure in medical education," and incidentally trained a number of the foremost pathologists of America, besides doing important research work himself. In the second, he organized and directed the work of the first medical institution in the world designed primarily to promote research and teaching in the field of preventive medicine and public health.

Now he enters upon a third undertaking in which the cure and prevention of disease are linked into a unity. With his unusual experience and learning, unsurpassed since Dr. Osler's death, and with a personality drawing all men to him, he comes in the autumn of his life to give of his own culture to the enrichment of those who are to carry on in his profession. Some may look upon such study as a mere ornament in medical practice; but his answer is that it is "an asset to successful practice and to the pursuit of medical science." It is essential to a further development of what we now have to show how we came into possession of it. He cites Dr. William Osler, his former associate, "one of the outstanding physicians of all time," as a man whose knowledge was "very largely based on the history of medicine." He might have cited also Sir Thomas Browne:

> I could never content my contemplation with those general pieces of wonder—the Flux and Reflux of the Sea, the increase of Nile, the conversion of the Needle to the North; and have studied to match and parallel those in the more obvious and neglected pieces of Nature which without further travel I can do in the cosmography of myself. We carry with us the wonders we seek without us; there is all Africa and her prodigies in us. We are the bold and adventurous piece of Nature which he that studies wisely learns in a compendium what others labor at in a divided piece and endless volume.

It is the history of man's exploration and discovery in the cosmography of his own self that Dr. Welch will now teach; and his own achievement is the best testimony to the value of his subject. His entrance upon this work is itself another milestone in the history of medicine in America.—*The New York Times.*

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

General Botany. By C. STUART GAGER. Pp. xvi + 1055, 689 text figures. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1926.

THE multiplication of botanical texts indicates not only the progress of botany, but also the great variety of judgment as to its presentation to students. Gager has written several texts, but the present one is a voluminous compendium of botany in general, presented with an unusual purpose. In the preface, the author discusses the purpose and emphasizes the idea that all education should regard "the individual and society as of primary importance," the subject being merely a means of training the student in thinking and in rendering public service. As he puts it, "the great need is not so much to know *what* to think, but *how* to think." It is expected that laboratory work will be the foundation for using the text, but this is "enriched" with information of educational value. The thought is summed up in the statement that "the aim has been to show that plant life has been, throughout history, and still is closely interwoven with human life." The title of the book states