

at Tulane University, New Orleans. Students from Tulane who wish to carry on research in certain fields of tropical medicine will be sent to the Ross Institute and research workers from there will come to Tulane. The arrangement was made by Professor Aldo Castellani, who is honorary director of the Ross Institute and head of the department of tropical medicine at Tulane.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

GEORGE PARMLY DAY, treasurer of Yale University, has announced that although the date set for the opening of the \$20,000,000 endowment fund drive was still three weeks away, gifts and pledges to the university have already reached a total of \$9,500,000.

GIFTS and bequests amounting to \$206,841.38 have been received by New York University in the last eight months.

By the will of Judge Madison W. Beacom, his entire estate was left to Oberlin College. It is estimated that the estate is approximately \$75,000.

THE University of St. Andrew's, Scotland, has received from an anonymous donor the sum of £100,000.

PROFESSOR RALPH H. CURTISS has been made director of the observatory and chairman of the department of astronomy in the University of Michigan, in succession to the late Professor William J. Hussey. Professor Curtiss has been assistant director of the observatory of the University of Michigan since 1911 and in charge of astrophysical research since 1907.

DR. LEONARD CARMICHAEL, assistant professor of psychology at Princeton University, has been appointed associate professor of psychology and director of the psychological laboratory at Brown University.

DR. FRANK A. WILDER has been elected to the professorship of geology at Grinnell College. Dr. Wilder was at one time state geologist of Iowa, but for the last twenty years has been president of the Southern Gypsum Company, at North Holston, Va.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALAN D. CAMPBELL, of the University of Arkansas, has been appointed associate professor of mathematics in Syracuse University.

At the University of London, Dr. Hamilton Hartridge has been appointed to the university chair of physiology and Mr. W. E. Le Gros Clark to the university chair of anatomy, both tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College.

DR. H. H. WOOLLARD, assistant professor of anatomy and subdean of the faculty of medical sciences at University College, London, has been appointed to the chair of anatomy vacated by Professor Wood Jones at the University of Adelaide.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE ABOLITION OF THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY

IN regard to the notice of a special examination to be held to select a chief of the new Bureau of Chemistry and Soils (SCIENCE, March 4, p. 224), I think the readers of SCIENCE will be interested in knowing why Dr. C. A. Browne, eminent carbohydrate chemist, at present chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, has been legislated out of office.

I am an admirer of Dr. Browne's ability and his splendid career in his profession. I did all I could to persuade him to accept the position of chief of the Bureau of Chemistry at a very considerable financial loss. I will tell the story of this amazing legislation in as few words as possible. The Bureau of Chemistry is the legitimate successor of the first scientific profession named in the organic act establishing the Department of Agriculture in 1862. It is, therefore, the oldest scientific bureau of the department. The Bureau of Chemistry was extremely active in the agitation beginning in 1883 looking to the enactment of the Food and Drugs Law. It was charged specifically by Congress with the duty of enforcing that law. I can not enter into the discussion of the motives which provides for the abolition of the Bureau of Chemistry at midnight on June 30, 1927. I can only tell how this legislation was secured.

Evidently all the principal officials of the Department of Agriculture were in sympathy with this movement. There was a right and a wrong way of doing it. In my humble opinion a bureau which had rendered the eminent services to this country such as the Bureau of Chemistry has done should have had at least some consideration before being led to the guillotine. Nevertheless the program of this execution was prepared with more or less secrecy. There was no noise made about it. The scheme was hatched in the Budget Bureau with the full approval of the high officials of the department. It was submitted to the House of Representatives, with the budget estimate for the Department of Agriculture. There is a rule which reads that no new legislation can legally be placed in an appropriation bill if a single member of the House of Representatives objects to it on a point of order. The high officials of the Department of Agriculture are all aware of this rule. This proposed legislation repealed one of the fundamental parts of the Food Law by abolishing the bureau which Congress had charged with its enforcement. Approximately two thirds of the appropriations for the Bureau of Chemistry were used in the enforcement of this act. This part of the bureau was bodily moved over to a new unit which is

designated in the proposed legislation as "The Food and Drugs Administration." The gamble taken by the authorities was successful. Not a single member of the House raised a point of order. They passed an Enabling Act, transferring the administration of the law to this new unit and abolishing the Bureau of Chemistry absolutely. The mangled remains of the Bureau, *fastigia rerum*, as Virgil would call them, were transferred to the Bureau of Soils, and a new Bureau of Chemistry and Soils was created. This left Dr. Browne high and dry, *sine officio*. The new chief of the bureau, according to the article in SCIENCE, is to be handpicked in a kind of examination heretofore unheard of. I have not seen the legislation which authorized the Civil Service Commission to appoint a board of special examiners for this purpose.

The proper way to have gone about this thing would have been the introduction of a bill abolishing the Bureau of Chemistry, establishing a new Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, and creating a new unit of administration for the Food and Drugs Law, with a repeal of that part of the Food Law which charged the Bureau of Chemistry with its enforcement. If this proposition had come before the Congress of 1906, which enacted the Food and Drugs Law, I doubt if it would have received an affirmative vote in either house. Numerous attempts were made during the pending legislation for the law to take the administration away from the Bureau of Chemistry, but every one of these attempts was overwhelmingly negated. The only persons, then, who really wanted to see the Bureau of Chemistry divorced from the Food and Drugs Act were the adulterators of foods and drugs.

HARVEY W. WILEY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

#### 10,300,000 VACCINATIONS FOR SMALLPOX WITHOUT ONE SINGLE REPORTED CASE OF SYPHILIS<sup>1</sup>

It has come to the attention of the undersigned that false statements are being circulated, that have caused some people to believe or fear that vaccination against smallpox may cause syphilis. Since the activities under our charge furnish direct evidence in refutation of this idea we have considered it our duty to issue a statement that syphilization as a result of vaccination does not occur.

Before the discovery of smallpox vaccine, the only protection against the dangers of smallpox was by inoculating a person intentionally with the disease and

<sup>1</sup> The original signed copy of this statement is on file at the Office of the Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

thereby producing, in general, a milder attack than that contracted when smallpox was caught in a natural manner. In this way the inoculation of syphilis along with smallpox, or even of syphilis instead of smallpox, was possible. This possibility also existed when vaccination first supplanted smallpox inoculation, and was performed, as was smallpox inoculation, from the arm of one human subject to another. Cases of syphilis following inoculation or vaccination with human vaccine were, nevertheless, extremely rare. Syphilis, however, is a disease confined in nature to the human species alone, and as soon as the use of calf vaccine instead of human vaccine became universal *the possibility of transferring syphilis by vaccination was entirely done away with.*

Since 1917 the United States Army has vaccinated approximately 4,700,000 members of its personnel; the United States Navy has vaccinated approximately 950,000 members of its personnel; and of these 5,650,000 persons, *not one* of them ever developed syphilis as a result of vaccination. In not one of them was there ever any suspicion of syphilis in connection with vaccination. During this same period, the United States Public Health Service has also vaccinated 2,918,748 persons in carrying out its quarantine, immigration and hospital work. While the service has not always had the opportunity of following up these vaccinations, as is carefully done in the Army and Navy, no one has ever alleged that any particular individual vaccinated by the Public Health Service has contracted syphilis as a result of vaccination.

During the past ten years more than 2,000,000 persons, including school children, have been vaccinated by state and local health authorities in cooperation with the United States Public Health Service, making a grand total of 10,568,748 vaccinations recorded by the government medical services, and not one of the undersigned has ever received an allegation or a statement charging that any particular individual of this number has contracted syphilis as a result of vaccination. In fact, there has never been reported anywhere a case of syphilis attributable to vaccination following the use of bovine smallpox vaccine.

Smallpox vaccine is a standard medicinal product, the quality of which is prescribed by the "United States Pharmacopeia" and as such is subject to the provisions of the pure food and drugs law. Furthermore, smallpox vaccine, together with other vaccines and serums for human use, has been deemed of such importance by the government that its production for sale within the jurisdiction of the United States has been under the special protection of an act passed July 1, 1902, antedating even the pure food and drugs law. Under this law all establishments producing smallpox vaccine for interstate sale must be licensed