Gilman Thompson formerly was president, receives $50,000 under the terms of his will. Dr. Thompson, who was professor of medicine at the Cornell University Medical College, also bequeathed to the New York Botanical Garden $5,000 and $10,000 to the New York Academy of Medicine.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

NEGROES have given $150,259 to the $1,000,000 fund which has been raised for Howard University, Washington, to be devoted to the purpose of the medical school. Fifty-one Negroes gave amounts ranging from one thousand to ten thousand dollars.

A LEGACY of £2,000, bequeathed by the late Christopher Collins to the University of Birmingham, is to be added to the biological building fund.

DR. MILO HELLMAN, research associate in physical anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History, has been appointed professor of comparative dental morphology at the New York University College of Dentistry.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR H. J. ETTLINGER, of the University of Texas, has been promoted to a full professorship of mathematics.

DR. J. R. MAGNESS, physiologist in storage and transportation investigations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been appointed head of the department of horticulture in Washington State College and of the division of horticulture in the experiment station.

DR. THURMAN B. RICE has been appointed associate professor of bacteriology and public health, and Dr. Frank Forry, associate professor of pathology at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis.

DR. FREDERIC A. WOLL will head the department of hygiene of the College of the City of New York, beginning January 1.

W. L. GILLILAND, national research fellow at Harvard University, has been appointed instructor in chemistry at the University of Maine.

H. JENSEN, who has been connected with the department of chemistry of the University of Louisville as assistant professor, has accepted a position at the Johns Hopkins Medical School in the department of pharmacology in order to do research work on insulin.

J. O. COOPER has been appointed lecturer in zoology at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in succession to Dr. A. D. Peacock, who is going to University College, Dundee, as professor of zoology.

DR. RALPH P. SMITH has been appointed to a position in the pathology department of Dalhousie University Medical School, Halifax, succeeding Dr. Albert G. Nicholls, who has resigned. Dr. G. S. Eadie has taken the position in the physiology department formerly occupied by Dr. N. B. Dreyer. Dr. Louis M. Silver has resigned as professor of medicine.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

CONFUSING NAMES FOR A METEOR

Two contributors to SCIENCE have expressed themselves on the difficulty of extracting from supposedly intelligent people useful information on the fall of a meteor. When Mr. Jones announces, perhaps in a scientific publication, that he saw a meteor with a head the size of a golf ball and a tail six feet long fall in broad daylight, which burst over Lake Cochituate at a height of one hundred feet, the exasperated investigator learns little except that the meteor did not burst over that lake.

The purpose of this note, however, is to discuss another difficulty, that of several confusing names for the same meteor, and scientific men are themselves largely responsible for errors from this source. It has recently been intimated that much of the same confusion in another field results from the belief of certain individuals that coining a new name for a species is an easy way to gain publicity. We will discuss the treatment of a meteor which fell about twenty miles west of the University of Iowa on February 12, 1875, and the reader can judge for himself whether the publicity on the various new names suggested would be desirable.

This meteor fell in Iowa County, Iowa, largely on land owned by the Amana Society, with the closest towns the Amana villages of South Amana, High Amana and Middle Amana. Their chief village, Amana, and the other society villages, West Amana, East Amana and Homestead, are only a little farther away. Marengo is the closest town of any size.

Two University of Iowa men investigating the meteoric fall published preliminary notes, referring to it as the Iowa County meteor. A more definite designation is, however, desirable, and later in the year, when sufficient stones had been recovered to mark the field of the meteorites, one of the men published the name Amana, under which specimens were sent to Europe and the more complete monograph on the meteor published at a later date.

The preliminary note referred to the fall as occurring "near Marengo." As might be expected some picked on this as a name, and in modern catalogs Marengo is given as one of the alternate names for

the Amana meteor. This confuses the Amana meteor of February 12, 1875, with the Marengo meteor of March 27, 1894.

As was said before, the fall occurred some twenty miles west of Iowa City, and was investigated by men from the University of Iowa. Further, meteorites were shipped from Iowa City to various parts of the world. Hence the name Iowa City was attached. It does not appear in the latest catalogs directly, but in Farrington's catalog of "Meteorites of North America" one finds for the position of the fall the longitude and latitude of the University of Iowa. So the error is still with us.

The first stone recovered was found on the property of a Mr. Sherlock, and this stone, important as the only one not exposed to the elements for some months, was referred to as the Sherlock stone. Many were unable to grasp the distinction, and insisted on attaching the name to all the stones of the Amana fall. This is given as an alternate name in the latest catalogs.

When the extent of the meteoric fall became generally known, dealers sent representatives to the locality. These men made Homestead their headquarters, as that village is the most easily reached by rail of those conveniently near the fall. The dealers secured many specimens, and we find the name of their trading post, Homestead, given preference in some of the late publications. A recent book showing a map of the vicinity of the fall, and using the name Homestead, marks the position of that village but fails to show Amana and the other villages of the vicinity.

Several interesting items with no basis of fact appeared in the newspapers at the time. The prize should be awarded to a story sent out from West Liberty, forty miles east of the fall, which told of a big stone buried fifteen feet deep found near that town. This story convinced many that the University of Iowa scientists had committed a grave injustice in failing to use the name West Liberty for this meteor. At the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904, practically thirty years after the fall, the map of American meteorites showed the Amana fall as occurring at West Liberty. Even in Europe this has been given as the preferred name in museum catalogues.

C. C. WYLIE

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

FIREBALLS AND NEW ENGLAND SCIENTISTS

THE study of the bright meteors often called fireballs, so bright that they attract wide attention and excite great interest among masses of people, differs in an important respect from that of the shooting stars of lesser brilliancy. The latter are noted for their periodicity, and for occasional showers of very numerous small meteors with some fireballs intermingled. But fireballs are generally scarce and, while there are signs of periodicity, in many cases they are certainly not members of the solar system, but appear sporadically. These two facts, and the impressive swift glare, burning train and occasional loud noises bring it about that they are for the most part observed by unskilled and unprepared observers, whose reports have to be elicited by appeals through the press and the radio broadcasting stations. The original observations are in general made without focussed attention or expectation of making any report, and the reports are made after a lapse of time from memory.

Schiaparelli plainly stated the remarkable fact of interstellar meteors, and von Niessl and his successor, Hoffmeister, have extended his work in quantity, and have shown that in some cases it is possible to group interstellar meteors as members of interstellar swarms. Continuous investigation of the facts is evidently highly desirable. This has been done in the United States by men of training and capacity from the time of Nathaniel Bowditch, and is now one of the functions of the American Meteor Society, whose president, Professor C. P. Olivier, has at intervals lately published studies of these bodies. It has, however, been plain that the whole continent is too large for one person or observatory to cover, and an attempt has been made to divide the United States and Canada into sections small enough for one institution in each. New England has been assigned to Harvard Observatory.

The object of this writing is to bring fireball observing to the attention of the readers of SCIENCE, and, in particular, to the attention of the New England members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The hope is that they may interest themselves in observing and reporting very bright meteors, comparable with a bright planet at least.

The Harvard Observatory has already dealt with recent fireballs, which occurred on November 15, 1925, December 29, 1925, and August 10, 1927. The first fell on a Sunday morning, the others in evening twilight. The cue for collecting the data was in each case a press notice in the morning papers the day following the fall. The means used in each case was an appeal for reports by eye-witnesses circulated in the newspapers and in the first two cases by radio broadcast also. The response was in each case rather overwhelming; there were received, in order, 140, 260, 249 reports more or less to the point. In the first case only one meteor was certainly in evidence; its position was determined in a general way as over southern Oxford County, Maine, and it was shown not to be a member of the Leonid swarm. The second case was shown not to be simple, but composite, there having