THE Pasteur Society of Central California, recently organized under the tentative name of "Society of Bacteriologists," as recorded in SCIENCE (April 13), met in San Francisco on May 9. The new title was definitely voted upon as best representing the aims and ideals of the organization. The membership now numbers 125. Dr. J. C. Geiger, senior surgeon of the U. S. Public Health Service and associate pro-fessor of epidemiology of the University of Cali-fornia, addressed the meeting on "Scientific Aspects of Modern Health Department Organization," pre-senting the development of the Chicago department of health and its problems. The discussion was led by Dr. Charles F. Bacon, of Chicago.

THE annual spring field meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science was held at Prices Falls, Ar-buckle Mountains, on April 20 and 21. The atten-dance was about 140, representing faculty members and students from fifteen institutions in Oklahoma and neighboring states. The subject of geology was stressed, and geological excursions were conducted each day. Bird walks were held each day, also tree walks and flower walks. Lectures were delivered at night as follows: "Stratigraphy of the Arbuckle Mountains," O. F. Evans, University of Oklahoma; "Flowers," Paul B. Sears, University of Oklahoma; "Hawks," R. O. Whitenton, A. and M. College; "Oklahoma Forest Trees," George R. Phillips, state forester; "Structure of the Arbuckle Mountains," V. E. Monnett, University of Oklahoma; "Science and History," Jas. S. Buchanan, vice-president of the Uni-versity of Oklahoma; "The Oklahoma Academy of Science," O. M. Smith, president of the academy, Oklahoma A. and M. College. Chas. N. Gould, di-rector of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, was gen-eral chairman in charge of the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made of a gift of $750,000 for the development of the department of surgery of the Washington University in the Barnes Hospital. This sum will be expended for the construction of three additional floors on the surgical pavilion of the Barnes Hospital and for the surgical work in the hospital. Of the $750,000, $450,000 was contributed by the General Education Board and $150,000 each by Frank C. Rand, chairman of the board of trustees of Barnes Hospital and Jackson Johnson, a trustee of the Washington University. Construction of the new hospital wards will begin immediately.

THE biological stations of the United States Bureau of Fisheries at Woods Hole, Mass., Beaufort, N. C., and Fairport, Iowa, will open for the summer's ac-tivities on June 20. Facilities for research work will be afforded at the various stations to independent in-vestigators and dormitory facilities will be provided as far as possible. Applications for space may be made direct to the Commissioner of Fisheries, Wash-ington, D. C. There will be accommodations for the usual number of workers at Woods Hole, but more space will be available at the other two stations, and workers who can not be accommodated at Woods Hole will be offered equally good laboratory facilities at either of the other stations.

Comparative Psychology Monographs have been taken over by the Johns Hopkins Press, and will be issued hereafter under the managing editorship of Knight Dunlap. The board of editors consists of J. E. Anderson, for child psychology; H. A. Carr, for the lower vertebrates; W. S. Hunter, for general hu-man problems; A. V. Kidder, for racial studies; S. O. Mast, for invertebrates, and R. M. Yerkes, for the primates. Manuscripts offered will be referred to the appropriate editor immediately, and will be considered for publication only after being approved by him.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE reversionary bequest by Mr. E. J. Bles to the University of Cambridge of the residue of his estate (about £30,000) has been accepted and is to be used for founding a professorship of animal embryology or of biophysics in honor of Charles Darwin.

DR. FRANCIS ARTHUR THOMSON, dean of the school of mines at the University of Idaho since 1917, has been called to the presidency of the Montana State School of Mines at Butte.

DR. HERBERT C. SADLER, head of the department of naval architecture and marine engineering, has been appointed dean of the colleges of engineering and architecture at the University of Michigan.

DR. GEORGE R. ALBERTSON, acting dean of the school of medicine of the University of South Dakota, has been appointed dean to succeed the late C. P. Lommen. Dr. Albertson was appointed to the chair of anatomy at the university in 1912.

DR. ALFRED C. REED, a former member of the fac-ulty of Stanford University School of Medicine, has been appointed professor of tropical medicine in the University of California Hooper Foundation for Med-ical Research and will take up his work in February, 1929. Dr. Reed is now studying at the London School of Tropical Medicine.

HOWARD F. JANDA, head of the civil engineering de-partment of the University of North Carolina, has been appointed professor of highway engineering and city planning at the University of Wisconsin.

DR. G. E. HILBERT has been appointed as research assistant to Professor Treat B. Johnson, Sterling professor of chemistry at Yale University for the academic year 1928–29.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR A. ELIZABETH ADAMS has been promoted to a professorship of zoology at Mount Holyoke College.

HARRY N. EATON has resigned the associate professorship of geology at Syracuse University.

DR. W. B. CROW, lecturer in botany at the University College, Cardiff, has been appointed head of the department of biology at the Technical College, Huddersfield, in succession to Dr. T. W. Woodhead, who will soon retire.

DR. ADOLF FRAENKEL, professor of mathematics at the University of Marburg, has been called to the University of Kiel.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE REAPPORTIONMENT BILL IN CONGRESS

HOUSE RESOLUTION 11725, reported favorably by the House Committee on the Census on April 4, 1928, presents an interesting scientific situation.

This bill, which provides for an automatic apportionment of 435 representatives after each decennial census (unless Congress takes other action), specifies the method of major fractions as the method to be followed in the computation; and the report of the Committee (no. 1137) describes this method of major fractions as a "specific, concrete and exact scientific method." As a matter of fact, this method is an obsolete method which has failed to secure the approval of any scientific body.

The problem of selecting the best method of apportionment is a mathematical problem of quite unexpected complexity, on account of the necessity of obtaining a solution in whole numbers. The problem has been the occasion of bitter debates in Congress for over a hundred years. Several different methods have been used and later discarded. On one occasion, after a long speech by Daniel Webster, the Senate reversed the action of the House on purely mathematical grounds. Not until 1921 did a satisfactory solution of the problem become available. In that year, at the request of Senator Sutherland, the Joint Advisory Committee to the Director of the Census held extensive hearings on the subject and published a unanimous report in favor of a method, then new, known as the method of equal proportions—a method which in point of simplicity, directness and intelligibility leaves nothing to be desired. This method has since been endorsed by a general consensus of scientific opinion. It was adopted in the only bill which came up in the House in 1927, and at that time, according to Hasbrouck's "Party Government in the House of Representatives" (p. 126), the "method of equal proportions was pretty generally favored over the method of major fractions which had been the basis of the 1911 apportionment." All the bills introduced in the House in the early part of this winter, which specified any definite method, specified, as a matter of course, the method of equal proportions. Moreover, the question of the choice of method is vitally important at the present time, since, if the proposed legislation is carried, there are conceivable distributions of population for which the choice of a wrong method might affect the number of representatives in every state in the Union.

In spite of these facts, the present report from the House Committee on the Census makes no mention whatever of the method of equal proportions and totally ignores the scientific report of the Advisory Committee. Why this sudden change?

The change is attributable entirely to the efforts of one man, Professor W. F. Willcox, of Cornell, whose testimony before the House Committee, as printed in the hearings for February 21, contains an entirely false description of the method of equal proportions, by which, supported as it was by impressive charts and diagrams, the committee was completely misled.

In a carefully worded paragraph on page 61, repeated with emphasis on page 62, instead of presenting the simple definition of the method of equal proportions which is well known in the literature of the subject, he substitutes therefor a complicated definition which bears no resemblance to the standard method and leads to strikingly different results. For example, suppose 100 representatives are to be apportioned among the five states A, B, C, D, E, in the following table, according to the method of equal proportions. Column I shows the result under the true method of equal proportions; column II shows the result under Professor Willcox's erroneous idea of that method. The results are different for four of the five states.

State	Population	I	II
A	12,972,500	52	51
B	11,000,000	45	44
C	345,000	1	2
D	342,500	1	2
E	340,000	1	1
	25,000,000	100	100