*British Medical Journal*, the subjects to be dealt with include a lecture on the therapeutic, prophylactic and social aspects of heliotherapy, by Dr. Rollier; heliotherapy in Belgium; radiation of food; a lecture on the sun and artificial light, by Professor Leonard Hill, and pigmentation caused by light. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secrétariat Général de la Première Conférence Internationale de la Lumière, Lausanne, Switzerland.

CHARLES F. BRUSH, inventor of the arc light, has set aside $500,000 to establish a foundation to be known as the Brush Foundation, in the memory of the inventor's son, Charles F. Brush, Jr., who died a year ago. The income is to be used by a board of managers to finance efforts contributing toward the betterment of the human stock and toward regulation of increase in population, to the end that children shall be begotten only under such conditions as make possible a heritage of mental and physical health and favorable environment. Those named to administer the fund are: Dr. T. Wingate Todd, Western Reserve University; the Reverend Joel B. Hayden, Mrs. Charles F. Brush, Mrs. Roger P. Perkins, Mrs. William H. Weir and Jerome C. Fisher, attorney.

RECENTLY a group of public-spirited laymen, acting through Dr. Edward L. Keyes, president of the American Social Hygiene Association, invited a group of syphilologists and investigators interested in syphilis to meet at the Hotel Plaza, New York City, for the purpose of organizing the Committee on Research in Syphilis. While the importance of syphilis is well known to the medical profession, large funds for the systematic study of the disease have, with the exception of the government appropriations during the war, been exceedingly difficult to obtain. The Committee on Research in Syphilis will distribute annually through its subcommittees the funds made available by the group of donors, to subsidize and develop research in both the clinical and laboratory aspects of the disease. It is the purpose of the committee to expend the sums placed at its disposal in the development of a constructive program of research with planned activities and selected cooperators, and, upon the stimulation through grants, of researches already in progress or about to be undertaken. There will be for the present, at least, no investment in plant.

A GIFT of $250,000 to the University of Pennsylvania for the establishment of a foundation to study the prevention of diseases of the heart and circulatory system has been made by Edward B. Bobinette, of Philadelphia. It is announced that Mr. Bobinette plans to give additional funds to the foundation.

A RESEARCH FUND of $7,500 per year has been placed in the school of engineering of the Johns Hopkins University by the Utilities Research Commission of Illinois for an investigation of the properties of impregnated paper as used in the insulation of high voltage cables. The work will be under the direction of Dr. J. B. Whitehead, professor of electrical engineering. Dr. Whitehead is chairman of the committee on electrical insulation of the National Research Council, and the work referred to is part of the coordinated plan which is being proposed by that committee. Other similar investigations under Dr. Whitehead's direction are the influence of air and moisture in impregnated paper, supported by the National Electric Light Association, and dielectric absorption, supported by the engineering foundation, with the cooperation of various electrical industries.

THE family of the late Fred C. Bowditch has presented his collection of Coleoptera to the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. There are two principal portions: a general collection of Coleoptera of the world based on the G. D. Smith collection, and a special collection of the Chrysomelidae, containing the Jacoby collections (except part of the second), the Tring Museum collection, and an enormous amount of other material. This is said to be the largest private collection of beetles ever made.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

PRESIDENT LOWELL, of Harvard University, has announced gifts of $6,146,000 made to the university during the past year. This includes $350,000 which has been offered for a new gymnasium, and $350,000 to come from two anonymous donors, gifts not previously made public. President Lowell announced also that the $1,000,000 Arnold Arboretum fund has been fully subscribed.

THE $1,000,000 mark in the alumni fund of Princeton University for increasing faculty salaries has been passed. The goal is $2,000,000.

GIFTS for Washington University totaling $1,186,444 were made public at the commencement exercises.

SUBSCRIPTIONS totaling $1,000,000 have been received by the University of Southern California for its semi-centennial fund.

THE following changes were made relative to the personnel of the faculty of the school of medicine at a recent meeting of the board of trustees of Vanderbilt University: The resignation of Dr. G. Canby Robinson was accepted and Dr. W. S. Leathers, professor of preventive medicine, was elected as dean of the school; Dr. C. Sidney Burwell was made professor of medicine and physician-in-chief of the hospital;

Dr. Hugh Morgan was promoted from an associate professorship to a professorship of clinical medicine, and Dr. Horton Casparis was made professor of pediatrics and head of the department.

AT Yale University, Elliott Dunlap Smith, of the Dennison Manufacturing Company, has been appointed professor of industrial engineering in the Sheffield Scientific School; Dr. John Rodman Paul has been appointed assistant professor of medicine, and Dr. Roland Charles Travis has been appointed research associate in psychology, with the rank of assistant professor, in the institute of psychology.

PROMOTIONS which have been recently announced in the department of chemistry, University of Wisconsin, are: from associate professor to professor, Homer Adkins and Farrington Daniels; from assistant professor to associate professor, George J. Kemmerer, S. M. McElvain and H. A. Schuette.

DR. FLORENCE PEEBLES, lecturer for the extension department of the University of California at Los Angeles, has been appointed professor of biology in the California Christian College in Los Angeles.

A. BRAZIER HOWELL, of the U. S. National Museum, has been appointed lecturer in comparative anatomy in the department of anatomy at the Johns Hopkins Medical School.

DR. ERICH VON GEBAUER-FÜLNEGG, assistant professor at the University of Vienna, has received a similar appointment on the chemistry staff of Northwestern University.

R. A. WARDLE, lecturer in economic zoology in the University of Manchester, has been appointed to the chair of zoology in the University of Manitoba, Canada.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### AN OLD EXPERIMENT ON COLLISIONS OF THE SECOND KIND

THIRTY-SEVEN years ago, in the course of an investigation on the spectroscopic determination of potassium, F. A. Gooch and T. S. Hart[1] made the interesting observation that the presence of sodium in a flame tends to increase the intensity of the red potassium doublet. A small helix of platinum wire was dipped in a solution of potassium and sodium chloride, dried and introduced in the outer cone of the flame of a large Bunsen burner. The potassium line was observed in a small spectroscope with the telescope set so that the yellow sodium doublet fell outside the field of view. The effect of varying the amount of sodium was roughly studied. The phenomenon began to be noticeable when the ratio of sodium to potassium was about ten. With twenty times as much sodium as potassium the potassium line was "much stronger" than in the absence of sodium. The greatest enhancement was observed when the ratio of sodium to potassium was one hundred. A further increase in the amount of sodium decreased the effect, but this decrease may be psychological, due to the strong sodium light scattered into the field of view.

The explanation of this phenomenon, which Gooch and Hart attribute to some, not specified, chemical reaction, is undoubtedly to be found in the so-called atomic collisions of the second kind.[2] Since the resonance potential of sodium is greater than that of potassium, it is possible for an excited sodium atom, colliding with a normal potassium atom, to transfer enough energy to excite the latter. The presence of a large number of excited sodium atoms will, therefore, increase the number of excited potassium atoms and thus enhance the intensity of the potassium doublet.

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### ANOTHER WILD LIFE PRESERVE NEAR ITHACA

IN 1919 through the generosity of the late Mr. C. G. Lloyd, of Cincinnati, Ohio, Cornell University obtained what is now known as the Lloyd-Cornell Wild Life Reservation near McLean, N. Y. This preserve comprises an area of slightly over 80 acres and includes several very interesting cold upland sphagnum-heath bogs, grass bogs and an open mud pond, which is now in the process of being slowly filled in. Each year various classes in the biological sciences of Cornell University make excursions to this preserve and in 1926 a report was published on a preliminary survey of the fauna and flora of this preserve.[1]

In 1924 Mr. Lloyd purchased another tract of more than 400 acres of wooded land near Slaterville, N. Y., some 12 miles to the southeast of Ithaca and this has been designated as the Lloyd-Cornell Wild Flower Preserve. This preserve consists of a wooded hilly upland area which is traversed by several streams as well as by a cold spring brook and affords another bit of area in which Nature will be allowed to function without interference from man.

Just before his death Mr. Lloyd made arrangements for the purchase of still another tract of land near

[1] F. A. Gooch and T. S. Hart, *Am. J. Sci.*, 42, 448 (1891).

[2] O. Klein and S. Rosseland, *Zeitschr. f. Phys.*, 4, 46 (1921); J. Franck, *Zeitschr. f. Phys.*, 9, 259 (1922).

[1] A Preliminary Biological Survey of the Lloyd-Cornell Reservation, by members of the Scientific Staff of Cornell University. Bull. Lloyd Library, No. 27, Ent. Ser. No. 5, 1926.