

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., has given \$2,000,000 to the University of Paris for the construction and development of a central building in the new students' quarter.

A GIFT of \$1,500,000 has been made by Arthur J. and Leonard D. Baldwin, of East Orange, N. J., to the Drew Theological Seminary. The institution now becomes Drew University, and a college of liberal arts will be opened this fall.

THE chairman of the University College centenary fund has announced a conditional offer to advance zoological teaching and research in the University of London. The offer is to provide the sum of £120,000 under the condition that a further sum of £120,000 be raised so that not only the site, buildings and equipment, but the endowment necessary for staff and upkeep shall be secured, and that the scheme shall include chairs of genetics and comparative physiology and the teaching of other recent developments of zoological science.

DR. R. G. WALLACE, of Manitoba University, provincial commissioner of mines, has been appointed to the presidency of the University of Alberta, in succession to Dr. H. M. Tory, who is now head of the National Research Council.

DR. HOMER W. SMITH, professor of physiology at the University of Virginia, has been appointed head of the department of physiology in the medical school of New York University. In the department of biology of Washington Square College, Dr. Henry J. Fry, Dr. Ruth B. Howland and Dr. Charles R. Plunkett have been promoted to associate professorships. Dr. Douglas A. Marsland has been promoted to assistant professor and administrative secretary of the department.

THE following changes have been made in the chemical faculty at the University of Mississippi: Dr. H. H. Johnstone has resigned to enter upon a research problem in the University of Illinois. His place is to be taken by Dr. John E. Foglesong, of Trinity College, Conn. J. A. Riddick, who is completing his work for the doctor's degree at the Iowa State University this summer, is to join the faculty as an additional member.

AT the University of Missouri the following promotions have been made: Dr. Edward A. McCordock, from assistant professor to associate professor of pathology; Dr. Ethel Ronzoni, instructor to assistant professor of biological chemistry, and Dr. Arthur S. Gilson, Jr., instructor to assistant professor of physiology.

DR. GORDON H. SCOTT, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, and Dr. James L. O'Leary, of the department of anatomy of the University of Chicago, have been appointed assistant professors of cytology in the department of anatomy of the Washington University School of Medicine.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE FORA TO BE HELD AS PART OF THE PROGRAM OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENTOMOLOGY

Two of the sessions of the section of taxonomy, distribution and nomenclature will consist of general discussions of problems of wide interest to taxonomists. In order that those who will attend may be thinking along these lines and thus be prepared to take part, it seems desirable to publish the following list of topics to be discussed.

Sessions of the section will also be held devoted to the reading of papers, and there will of course be several other sections of the congress, each with a program of papers, as well as addresses before the entire congress on subjects of wide interest by foreign and American entomologists of distinction, all of which will be announced elsewhere in due course.

FORUM ON PROBLEMS OF TAXONOMY

An address on "The Future of Insect Taxonomy" will be given by Dr. Walther Horn, of Berlin. Following this address, the session will be devoted to a discussion of the problems that are in increasing measure confronting the insect taxonomist. It is hoped that all attending will come prepared to make contributions to the discussion and definite constructive suggestions. Perhaps a result of the session may be the formation of permanent committees looking toward improvement of, or international cooperation in regard to some of the problems discussed.

Taxonomic and Phylogenetic Groups: Is the modern tendency toward infinite increase in the taxonomic groups of organisms and the raising of the rank accorded them a result of the narrowing horizon of specialists or is it a sound growth forced by a better understanding of biological processes?

Catalogs: The preparation of world catalogs is becoming almost an economic impossibility. They become rapidly out of date and their revision and republication even less possible. Can means be found to meet the situation?

Collections: How far are insect collections economically justified? How far should they be centralized? To what extent supported by public moneys? How far has the entomological public a

moral interest and rights in private collections which have become the basis of important published work and what steps can be taken looking toward the eventual public ownership of such collections? Could a close cooperation be developed between certain leading collections of each country or at least continent to the end that by an automatic distribution of surplus material with each other, there would eventually be built up one or two central world collections in each major country or continent? How far can the progress of taxonomy be best served by the free loan of material to specialists? Can a uniformity of practice be established concerning division of material thus borrowed between the museum and the specialist?

Types: What progress can be made toward definite fixation of the type specimens of older authors? Is a cooperative undertaking possible looking toward the eventual recording and possibly also joint publication of the location of all type specimens now in existence? How far are special designations for different categories of "types" useful and advisable, and can we come to a uniform practice in their application?

What should be the policy of custodians of types toward their loan and what toward their isolation from generally used collections?

Determinations: Vigorously expanding research in ecology, life histories, morphology, genetics, applied entomology has not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in taxonomists, upon whom these researchers are dependent for determinations. How can this need, which will increase as time goes on, be met?

FORUM ON PROBLEMS OF NOMENCLATURE

There will be an address on "The Future of Zoological Nomenclature," by Dr. Charles W. Stiles, secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. The remainder of the session will be devoted to an informal discussion of nomenclatorial problems, as affecting entomology.

The Theory of Nomenclature: There exist two conflicting points of view. The one is that the principle of priority must be strictly observed in all cases in order to do justice to the taxonomist who first proposed each name. This, therefore, makes its application a matter of moral obligation. The other point of view is that there is no essential principle behind nomenclature, that the sole aim is to secure uniformity of practice, and that while the principle of priority is in the main a useful tool, it should be discarded just at the point where it hampers and impedes more than it assists in securing uniformity and convenience.

Family Names: Is it desirable for this congress to take steps looking toward the adoption of a definite method for determining the type genus of a family, and consequently the family name?

Would it be desirable to establish an international committee to compile information upon the status of all family or subfamily names in order to determine the sense in which they have been most generally used and to recommend to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature that their usage be conserved in such sense?

Other problems of nomenclature that any one in attendance may wish to raise.

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Distribution and Nomenclature*

DOES THE AMOUNT OF FOOD CONSUMED INFLUENCE THE GROWTH OF AN ANIMAL?

THE original article appearing in this journal¹ under the above title solicited the attention of investigators in animal physiology to what appeared to the author to be a serious defect in methods of experimentation being widely used in attacking problems relating to nutrient requirements, the nutritive values of food materials and the synthetic capacities of animal cells. It was an attempt to define the tacit implications upon which these methods are based and to show that they are not sufficiently well established, or, in some cases, even sufficiently plausible, to render any method based upon them an effective instrument of research. It was hoped that the article would stimulate discussion of the fundamental principles of such experimental methods, since these principles have not been critically discussed elsewhere.

W. C. Rose,² in an article bearing the same title as this communication, has offered a defense of the methods criticized, specifically a defense of feeding experiments in which the intake of food by otherwise comparable animals or in otherwise comparable experimental periods has not been equalized. This defense was prompted by the fact that some of his work was cited anonymously in my original criticism for purposes of illustration.

In his work on the indispensability of arginine and histidine,³ Rose is convinced that the inadequate food consumption of rats on the low-histidine rations was the result of dietary inadequacy, and in defense of his conclusion he cites a number of opinions of eminent investigators in nutrition to the effect that animals

¹ Mitchell, H. H., *SCIENCE*, 1927, lxi, 596.

² Rose, W. C., *SCIENCE*, 1928, lxxvii, 488.

³ Rose, W. C., and Cox, G. J., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1924, lxi, 757; 1926, lxxviii, 217.