

AN investigating committee of five members has been appointed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to formulate plans and recommendations upon which the U. S. Department of Agriculture and cooperating agencies will base a program of soil-erosion investigations of nation-wide scope, according to an announcement made by Dr. A. F. Woods, director of the scientific work of the department. The investigations have been made possible by an item of \$160,000 in the agricultural appropriation act of 1930, of which \$40,000 is now available. The committee consists of A. G. McCall, chief of the division of soil investigation, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils (chairman); S. H. McCrory, chief of the division of agricultural engineering, Bureau of Public Roads; A. H. Clapp, in charge of the branch of research, Forest Service; J. G. Lipman, director of the New Jersey Experiment Station, and A. B. Conner, director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

THE Department of State has completed the arrangements for the participation of this government in an international conference to consider the revision of international classifications of the causes of death. This conference is to be held in Paris during October of this year and the invitation was extended through the French Ambassador. The following list of American delegates has been approved by the President: Dr. Timothy F. Murphy, chief statistician for vital statistics, Bureau of the Census, Washington; Dr. Haven Emerson, chairman, Committee on Reliability of Statements of Causes of Death, vital statistics section, American Public Health Association, New York City; George H. Van Buren, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York City; Dr. William H. Guilfoyle, director of records, City Department of Health, New York City; Dr. W. J. V. Deacon, director of statistics, State Department of Health, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Dr. Jessamine S. Whitney, Statistician, National Tuberculosis Association, New York City; Assistant Surgeon-General Rupert Blue, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington; Dr. Emlyn Jones, chief of the bureau of vital statistics, State Department of Health, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Edgar Sydenstricker, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

LOUISE ALLEN PRYOR has left her residuary estate of about \$40,000 in trust to the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital as a scholarship fund in memory of her father, who for many years was a professor at the institution.

THE Collège de France, founded by François the first in 1530, will celebrate its four-hundredth anniversary next year. A large attendance of delegates from French and foreign universities is expected.

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for April 25 there was an error in regard to the Henry Barnard Davis professorship in geology at Yale University. Professor Chester R. Longwell has been appointed to this new chair, established by the mother and the aunt of Mr. Davis, who graduated from Yale College in 1911 and died recently.

PROFESSOR JOSEPH W. BARKER, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed head of the department of electrical engineering at Lehigh University. He will succeed the late Professor William Esty.

HARRY M. GEHMAN, assistant professor of mathematics at Yale University, has been elected professor of mathematics and head of the department in the University of Buffalo to succeed the late Professor W. H. Sherk.

DR. JOSEPH MARCHAND HAYMAN, associate in medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed associate professor of medicine in the school of medicine of Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

DR. C. H. GORDON has resigned as head of the department of geology at the University of Tennessee, but retains the professorship of geology, which he has held since 1907. Dr. G. M. Hall, associate professor, has become acting head of the department.

DR. CHARLES H. BEST, who was associated with Dr. Banting in the discovery of insulin, has been appointed professor of physiology at the University of Toronto to succeed Professor J. J. R. Macleod, who has accepted a chair at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

DISCUSSION

ON THE PHYLOGENY OF HORSES, DOGS AND CATS

DR. AUSTIN CLARK in the current (March 8) number of *SCIENCE* makes certain remarks about horses, cats and dogs to which I find it necessary to take exception. He cites the horse as an example of "linear evolution involving a time element," but states, correctly enough, that gaps are found in all these evolutionary lines, and that "many of these gaps appear to be real—that is, they were never, as far as we have been able to learn, bridged by so-called missing links." As a matter of fact, the fossil record