

Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Relation of Athletics to College Life, Student Life. The discussions will be led by the dean, the department heads and the faculty manager

of athletics. Although designed for freshman engineering students, the conferences will be open to all who are interested, especially those who are having difficulty with their work.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

AN anonymous gift of \$100,000 to the University of California has been received for the support of research in cancer and allied subjects by the medical school and the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research. With the addition of this fund, the university will have a total endowment of \$200,000 for research in this field. Mr. and Mrs. George H. Roos, of San Francisco, recently made a gift of \$100,000 for research in thoracic surgery and cancer, and later added \$5,000 for the equipment of a clinic and research laboratory to carry on this work.

THE late Abraham Rosenberg, San Francisco merchant, who was a leader in developing world markets for California dried fruits, has included in his will a bequest of \$100,000 to the University of California as an endowment for the support of graduate research fellowships.

IN honor of Martin J. Insull, of Chicago, Mrs. Insull has founded and endowed with \$25,000 a scholarship in the college of engineering of Cornell University, from which Mr. Insull was graduated with the degree of M.E. in 1893, and in which he is himself building up a loan fund for the benefit of students. The new scholarship may be held for four years and

during that time will pay most of the scholar's expenses at college, amounting, at the present rate of tuition, to an average of more than \$1,000 a year.

It is announced that in accordance with the wish of Dr. Joseph S. Ames, who recently succeeded Dr. Frank J. Goodnow as president of the Johns Hopkins University, there will be no formal inauguration ceremonies.

THE resignation is announced of Arthur Edward Wells, professor of metallurgy at Harvard University.

DR. BENNO EDWARD LISCHER, of the University of Michigan, has been appointed full-time professor of orthodontics in the University of California.

DR. KENNETH GOODNER has been appointed instructor in bacteriology and immunology in the School of Public Health at Harvard University.

At the University of Cambridge, C. F. A. Pantin, of Trinity and Christ's Colleges, has been appointed university lecturer in zoology, and J. E. E. Craster, of Downing College, has been appointed university lecturer in geography.

DISCUSSION

SUPERFLUOUS PUBLICATIONS

THERE appears to be an increasing tendency for the publication of journals devoted to exploitation of work by individual laboratories and organizations promoting an extended program of research on varied subjects. There are dozens of institutions where the amount of manuscript produced per year is amply sufficient to fill the pages of a weekly, monthly or quarterly journal so that a reasonable temptation on the part of the executives of these institutions may readily exist for the independent maintenance of an organ of publication. It is doubtful, however, if the publicity so secured reacts favorably toward the organization concerned.

Usually such a journal is a hopeless compilation of reports on almost every subject known to science. A short article on atomic physics may be buried between a memoir on the physical properties of concrete and a report on the design of an aeroplane propeller. For continuity, the Encyclopaedia Britannica is to be preferred.

A serious problem confronts the librarian in the

cataloguing and disposition of these publications, especially in universities where reference libraries are divided and allocated to the various departmental offices. Institutions devoted to a restricted subject are forced to subscribe to a journal containing numerous articles on material of little interest in order to have on file a few papers of immediate importance. Often the smaller institutions will not subscribe to the journal and papers of importance to it are lost except through the courtesy of the particular authors in distributing reprints. The miscellaneous character of such journals is also responsible for inadequate review of their contents by the various abstract journals. Many papers so published have not been abstracted and accordingly are unknown in the bibliography of the particular subject concerned.

The research investigators in institutions maintaining private publications recognize the handicap to which they are subjected and desire to submit their reports to a medium of publication primarily concerned with papers of a similar character. If such a policy is permitted, however, the privately printed

journal either dies a natural death, as it should, or continues its existence as a collection of articles reprinted from the many technical journals devoted to specific subject-matter. As few executives will subscribe to the policy of the publication of a mere collection of reprints, since this is too obviously an extravagant procedure, it is usually necessary, for the very existence of the private journal, that the employees of the laboratory concerned be required to submit their papers to their own journal for prior publication. In general, society publications are at liberty to reprint such material, but their editors likewise feel that the extravagant policy of publishing the same article in two journals should not be encouraged. Most of the large society-controlled journals for this reason require that their editors accept no paper for publication which has appeared in any other medium.

The menace of the private journal has another far-reaching influence. Many societies already claim ownership to the written report of investigations presented before their stated meetings, and this policy can be and, with the continuance of private journals, must be more rigorously extended and enforced. The society journal is the center at which the activities of an organization concentrate. It is the duty of each member of a society to see that his particular journal is given every possible support. An institution which enforces prior publication in a private journal therefore acts contrary to the best interest of the national organization and in many cases prevents its personnel from playing an active rôle in the national and cooperative development of research. In this way the privately printed journal defeats the very purpose for which it is supposedly sustained. It fails to secure adequate publicity for its own work and its maintenance militates against the national recognition of its contributors who may be barred from participation in the national meetings and from honors which might otherwise be extended.

About the only excuse for a private journal is that it serves as a means for the publication of extended memoirs which would be rejected by society-controlled journals. Two reasons may occur for such a rejection. The paper may contain a large amount of superfluous material which could have been readily omitted in which case it might have been acceptable. Often a lengthy paper will be read by possibly ten or less interested individuals, and an abbreviated account of importance to a larger group of readers could be published in a recognized journal with a statement to the effect that mimeographed copies of the complete report with numerous data are on file for loan by the author's institution. On the other hand, it may rarely occur that the publication of an

extended manuscript is highly desirable but because of the excessive cost funds are not available for its appearance in a society journal. The work might then well appear as a separate brochure or the institution concerned could make arrangements with the society journal to defray a part of the cost of publication. This latter plan has been successfully adopted by several recognized journals and research laboratories.

Present regulations, possibly instigated by the Government Printing Office, do not permit the participation of government laboratories in such a program, but if the majority of the scientific public were convinced that curtailing of the numerous *heterogeneous* government journals and the distribution of the material in national journals of homogeneous character were conducive to the scientific welfare of the country, it is quite possible that the iron-clad restrictions now existing could be partially removed.

In conclusion the writer wishes to emphasize that a large group of scientists in this country is convinced of the detrimental influence of privately published journals containing material of heterogeneous character, and the same objection, but with less serious consequences, applies to most academy proceedings. It would seem that the subject is of sufficient importance to warrant careful consideration by the governing boards of organizations and societies devoted to broad fields of research.

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FLAGELLUM DIVISION IN *PARANEMA* *GLOBIFERUM*

OWING to the fact that there prevails no little skepticism about the splitting of the flagellum in division of the *Mastigophora*, this observation is reported.

It is often rather difficult in our laboratory to obtain *Euglena* when desired, but another *mastigophoran* is very often used as a type because it is easily obtained in our cultures. This is *Paranema globiferum* (determined by Dr. R. W. Hegner, of Johns Hopkins), and the processes here described have been observed many times.

The first evidence of the beginning of longitudinal binary fission in these protozoa is the appearance of a forked flagellum. The forking increases until the organism appears to be biflagellate. Division of the body then begins, the gullet splits and in from five to ten minutes the new individuals separate and proceed in search of food which, under our observation, consisted of small algae (*Ophiocytium capitatum*).

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