

and a portion of their extensive botanical library have been presented to the University of Michigan by Parke, Davis and Company, of Detroit. This adds to the herbarium a collection of approximately 15,000 Michigan plants made by Dr. O. A. Farwell during the past thirty years. It is also rich in early collections of historic and taxonomic importance. Among others are specimens of Buckley, Chapman, Mohr, Bigelow, Shuttleworth, Heller, Rusby, Curtis, Nash, Lemmon and Sukdorf from the United States; of Rusby, Bang, Morong and Triana from South America; of Pringle, Palmer, Oreutt, Tuereckheim and Schaffner from Mexico and Central America; of Teymann, De Vriese, Korthals, Duthie, Hooker, Wallich, Meissner and Mez from the East Indies and British India; of von Mueller, Maiden and Morrison from Australia; of Heller from Hawaii; of Boissier, Schimper, Schweinfurth, Schlechter and Burchell from the Levant and Africa.

THE late Alexander Legge, first chairman of the Federal Farm Board, left \$900,000 to found an organization "devoted to the general welfare of the farming population of the United States and improvement of the conditions of rural life." Mr. Legge was president of the International Harvester Company.

ACCORDING to *Museum News*, the Public Works Administration has allotted \$16,500 for repairs to the major ruins in Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, and \$17,175 for repairs to the Aztec Ruins in Aztec Ruin National Monument in New Mexico. In the Mesa Verde, stabilization work is planned at Cliff

Palace, Balcony House, Square Tower House, Far View House and Pipe Shrine House to check disintegration of walls, to secure the preservation of these buildings without further extensive repairs, and to contribute to the safety of visitors. The need for these repairs had become acute because of settling in the loose fill on which Cliff Palace is built and because of seepage getting at the base of the retaining walls at Balcony House. At the other ruins wall strengthening, drains and certain capping of rooms is needed. At Aztec Ruins the work will include restoration as well as protective measures for certain parts of the ruin, especially the great Kiva.

A NEW farm tillage laboratory, in which studies will be made to find the types of machines best suited economically to the soils of the Southeast, will be built by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn. The Federal Bureau of Agricultural Engineering will construct nine shallow pits, each 20 feet wide, 250 feet long and 2 feet deep. Into each pit will be dumped 10 carloads of topsoil, a sample of one of the agricultural soils of the Southeast, ranging from sand to tight clay. In these parallel pits practical comparative tests of plows and cultivating machinery will be made at one location, working under controlled conditions. R. B. Gray, chief of the mechanical equipment division of the bureau, will supervise the new laboratory work. John W. Randolph, a bureau engineer, will have charge of experiments and will work in cooperation with M. L. Nichols, head of the department of agricultural engineering at the Alabama Institute.

## DISCUSSION

### UNIVERSITY PATENTS

SINCE the publication of my communication on "University Patents" in the number of *SCIENCE* for March 10, 1933, I have learned that there were inaccuracies in the following sentences from that article which invalidate any inferences that the patent in question was being exploited as a source of revenue for profit or research, or that there was the intent to control the patent for any other purpose than ensuring the quality of the product controlled by the patent:

Without the aid of newspaper files many medical scientists can recall a trial which is reported to have cost the defendants \$80,000. Duly skeptical of such a figure, I should, however, assume that the patentees did not use all their takings that year for research. Shortly after the trial they were told by a spirited chief of one city health service that he was going to use their process anyhow and on a large scale, for which he proposed to pay them just one dollar, and if they wanted to refuse this

offer and bring suit, maybe they'd win, but the city was right and had good lawyers.

A well-known American patent for the treatment of an important infectious disease is protected in one country abroad by a clause which forbids its use in research directed to its improvement.

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### THE EXPANDING LITERATURE<sup>1</sup>

IT is perhaps not unnatural that as the universe expands under the watchful tutelage of Sir Arthur Eddington to a point where few persons other than he can comprehend its vastness, the scientific literature about its contents should also expand to an extent such that most scientists are utterly unable to cope with more than a fraction of that covering any one branch of knowledge. We are inevitably driven to

<sup>1</sup>With apologies to the author of "The Expanding Universe."