the institution after all academic degrees, whereas it is not so in the United States. When we see a Ph.D. from an American university we are at a loss to know whether the Ph.D. was obtained from Harvard or Yale or from any other university whose charter has been granted only the year previous to the granting of the Ph.D. We moreover know that there were universities in the United States which would confer a doctor's degree with no more preliminaries than the payment of a specified fee. I know of one instance where a certain individual, an Indian, obtained a doctor's degree—I am not sure whether it was Ph.D. or LL.D.—by paying $100, and he had never been to America! These spurious titles naturally give a bad impression of the universities of America, and the good ones suffer with the bad ones. If, on the other hand, it were customary to write the name of the university after the titles are given, it could easily be seen whether the letters of the alphabet are purely ornamental or if they have any value, and when unaccompanied by the name of the institution granting the degree it could be taken as an indication that the *alma mater* is nothing to be proud of. But perhaps the course I suggest is contrary to democratic principles.

Another thing which brings American scientific institutions into contempt is their lack of understanding in certain respects. Very often a book will be published in India and after the author's name will be a note saying "Foreign Correspondent to X. Institution," which means nothing more than that the author once wrote a letter to the institution in question. Unless the author is a bona-fide "foreign correspondent" or whatever he professes to be, such "boosting" should be strictly prohibited, even going to the length of legally prosecuting the author and the publisher.

The proper recognition of American science—for which the writer, though not educated in any American university, has the greatest respect—can be achieved not by adopting mercenary policies, but by taking pride in the institution which has made us what we are.

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THE SENSITIZATION OF GUINEA PIGS TO POISON IVY

WHEN an acetone extract of poison ivy leaves is painted on the skin, normal guinea pigs show a slight inflammatory reaction. When, however, the treatment is reapplied after an interval, the second response is markedly stronger than the first. Also, the previously treated, sensitized animal will react to dilutions too weak to produce a definite response in normal animals.

When the extract is injected into the peritoneal cavity or into muscle, no change in sensitivity can be demonstrated later by painting the skin with poison ivy extract. It appears that sensitiveness of the skin is produced only by treatment of the skin.

One intravenous or intramuscular injection of the extract into sensitive animals does not alter the degree of response to later skin tests. Passive transfer of the sensitiveness has failed, not only when the blood of the sensitized animal was injected locally in the skin, but when it was given intraperitoneally to a normal animal.

Tests of sensitiveness by injecting the extract intracutaneously result in the same response in sensitive as in normal animals. If the extract is concentrated, necrosis results but if dilute, no reaction at all may result.

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE TEMPLETON CROCKER EXPEDITION TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

THE auxiliary schooner *Zaca*, owned by Mr. Templeton Crocker, returned to San Francisco on September 15, 1933, after conducting a preliminary medical, ethnological and natural history survey of parts of the Solomon Islands. In addition to Mr. Templeton Crocker, leader of the expedition, the scientific staff included Dr. Sylvester M. Lambert, of the Western Pacific Health Service; Mr. Gordon White, of the British Solomon Islands Health Department; Malachai, native medical practitioner of Suva, Fiji; Mr. Gordon MacGregor, ethnologist on the staff of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum; Mr. Norton Stewart, naturalist of Santa Barbara, Calif.; Mr. Maurice Willows, entomological collector; Dr. John Hynes, of New Haven, Conn., ship's surgeon, and Mr. Toshio Asaeda, artist and photographer.

The *Zaca* left San Francisco on March 2 and sailed *via* Ensenada, Mexico, to Honolulu, where her outfitting was finished. En route to the Solomons she stopped at Palmyra Island, where plants and insects were obtained, and at Puka Puka, where other collections were made, together with ethnological notes. After calls at Pago Pago and Suva, and an official entrance into the Solomons at Vanikolo Island, Santa

Cruz, short visits were made at the Polynesian islands of Tikopia and Nupani.

On May 10, the ship anchored at the atolls of Sikaiana, where a study was made of the prevalence of tuberculosis, yaws, filaria and malaria, and of the religious beliefs, customs and social organization of the little known people.

At Tulagi, the next port visited, Dr. Lambert began his intensive research among the Melanesian population, while the other members of the expedition were landed on Guadalcanal Island to collect insects, plants and fish. A week later the entire party journeyed to Malaita Island, where with the assistance of Messrs. Barley and John White of the government of the Solomon Islands, a very successful and large tuberculin and anthropometrical survey was made in the Tai district.

On completion of the work at Malaita the expedition sailed to Rennell and Bellona islands, the chief objectives of the expedition. These two large isolated atolls, which at some time have been thrust out of the sea, are bordered by abrupt, almost impregnable coral walls. The unattractive coasts, without safe landing beaches and without products of commercial value, have remained almost free from European contact. Missionaries and traders have no foothold there. Here are two islands where Polynesian inhabitants are living much as they did when their ancestors arrived some 20 generations ago. Virulent European diseases have not been introduced, and the plant, bird and insect life has remained undisturbed.

With this virgin field before them, the expedition worked unceasingly to make the most extensive collections possible and to learn as much as possible of the native life and customs.

Through friendships established on a previous visit with the Whitney South Sea expedition, Dr. Lambert was able to immediately bring to a tiny beach on the coast the population of one district, and make an intensive study of disease and general health. Dr. Hynes, who assisted in this medical research, acquired a large number of blood samples for filarial tests and blood groups.

On Bellona Island the annual religious ceremony of offering the first fruits of the harvest was in full swing when the expedition landed. The unusual opportunity was offered of recording this in motion pictures and making extensive notes on religion and particularly the conduct of priests, while the gods were "dwelling" in their bodies.

After completing the work at Bellona and Rennell, Tulagi was revisited, and the medical and health survey was continued at San Cristobal, Santa Anna and Santa Catalina islands. On the return voyage from the Solomon Islands the small Polynesian settlements in the Swallow Islands and at Anuda (Cherry Island) were visited.

On July 23 the expedition reached Suva, where Dr. Lambert and his assistant left the party, and Mr. Crocker and Mr. Willows took ship for San Francisco. The remaining three members of the scientific party sailed to the Phoenix Islands *via* Pago Pago to investigate the "stone ruins" reported in the British Naval Survey of 1889.

The *Zaca* returned to Honolulu with about 3,200 artifacts from Polynesia and Melanesia, a large entomological collection, many rare plant specimens, a great quantity of small fish taken with dip nets, land and sea shells, and some 1,400 photographs and numerous sketches, mainly of marine life. The botanical and malacological collections and a representative ethnological collection of material were deposited in the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. The insect material is deposited with the California Academy of Sciences. The results of a special study of canoes made by Mr. Crocker will be sent to Dr. A. C. Haddon, of the University of Cambridge. The remainder of the collections will be presented to various institutions in America and Europe. Reports by Dr. Lambert will be published by the Rockefeller Foundation. The results of the anthropologic studies will be published by the Bishop Museum.

QUOTATIONS

WILLIAM H. WELCH

THE appointment of a man even of outstanding attainments to fill a chair in a university is not ordinarily an event of historic importance. But when Johns Hopkins made Dr. William H. Welch its first professor of pathology fifty years ago this month, it took a step that influenced the development of medicine and therefore affected the well-being of a nation. The highly trained, white-clad nurses in private and hospital practice, the hospitals themselves, the hundreds of laboratories where pathological specimens are examined by experts in diagnosis, the physicians who have mastered half a dozen sciences, and, above all, the research institutions where explorations in new fields of biology and medicine are planned and undertaken—they are all his products, the flowers that sprang from the seed then planted.

Out of that school, the first in this country modeled after corresponding European institutions, came the deans and leaders of American medical research—pupils of Welch himself and of Osler, Halsted, Kelly, Howell and Abel, all his appointees to a faculty the like of which had never been assembled in this country. Henceforth the physician who decided to forego