of marsupials, including some rare species, from Fergusson Island, New Guinea, has been purchased.

The Entomological Department has been given by Charles Dru Drury a number of interesting papers relating to his ancestor, Dru Drury (1725–1803), who was famous for his collections and descriptions of insects.

Among additions to the Mineral Department is a nugget of osmiridium, weighing nearly an ounce, from Adamsfield, near the source of the Derwent, in Tasmania. Osmiridium is an ore of iridium (which is used for the tips of fountain pens, among other things) mixed with osmium. The museum already possesses a rather bigger nugget, reputed to be the second largest in the world, but that now acquired is better crystallized. Another important purchase is a slice, weighing 1,387 grams, of a rare stony-iron type of meteorite known as a pallasite, from Springwater, Saskatchewan. Of historical interest is a selection of minerals from the collection of Wilhelm Karl von Haidinger, who from 1823 to 1826 worked in Edinburgh with Thomas Allan, a celebrated Scottish mineralogist, whose collections are at South Kensington.

A. W. G. Kingsbury, who has recently been collecting in the Mendips, has rediscovered the locality for pyromorphite, a lead phosphate, which was known there in the eighteenth century. He has presented a specimen of this to the museum, as well as a fine large piece of the rare lead oxychloride known as Mendipite. To the Department of Geology a collection of nearly 200 fossil fruits and seeds from the Cromer forest bed, all described by Mrs. E. M. Reid and her husband, the late Dr. Clement Reid, has been given by Mrs. Reid.

MATERIAL REWARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The British Medical Journal calls attention to a resolution recently passed by the French Academy of Medicine advocating the legal protection of ideas as well as their applications. The *Journal* writes:

> On June 8 one more step was taken in the direction of giving scientists material rewards for their discoveries when the French Academy of Medicine passed a resolution in favor of this principle. During the past decade this problem has appeared from time to time on the agenda of scientific and allied bodies, including the League of Nations and its offspring the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation. In a report presented on behalf of the Commission of Intellectual Cooperation, Bergson maintained that in the scientific field a new idea, not only its application, deserved protection on behalf of its author. Last March a study of the rights of savants was presented to the Academy of Medicine by Paul Olagnier. The commission, which was appointed by the Academy, and which was composed of some of its most distinguished members, has now issued its report, and it was as a response to this report that the Academy on June 8 unanimously voted a resolution in which the Government was invited to submit to Parliament the draft of a law aiming at the preservation of the rights, moral and material, of savants and inventors in all the fields in which their discoveries and scientific inventions exist. In the preamble to this resolution it was noted that legislation as it now stands does not grant to savants the same rights with regard to their discoveries and inventions as those enjoyed by the authors of literary and artistic works. It has seemed for some time that the discussion of this subject by learned societies has inevitably been doomed to the futility of pious wishes lacking executive expression; but what has given rise to hopes that this problem may be transferred from the academic to the legislative plane is that the French Government has prepared the draft of a law amplifying and harmonizing already existing legislation concerning authors' rights. With good will it ought not to be difficult to couple these proposed reforms with clauses extending the rights of authors to scientists in Bergson's spirit.

THE MUSEUM OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

A MUSEUM of the industrial arts and sciences is under development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Instead of being housed in a separate building, it is divided into many units, scattered through the three miles of corridor and utilizing various foyers and stairwells. The reason for this arrangement is that each department is to have its own exhibits in its own domain, and under its own immediate supervision. A central committee, under Professor Edwin S. Burdell, professor of sociology and dean of the newly created Division of Humanities, is correlating the departmental programs.

It is expected that future growth will come to a large extent from the initiative and enthusiasm of the staff and the student body, and that cooperation will come from the alumni. A museum is visualized which will be of benefit to student and general public alike, and which will show not only the activities of the school but also the great movements in science and engineering that have affected and are affecting the social destinies of mankind. The committee has as its ideal this accent upon the connection between science and the individual—a connection which is becoming more and more appreciated, but by no means clearly understood.

Though the institute's charter in 1861 made provision for a museum, it was not until 1920, when the department of naval architecture and marine engineering was opened, that anything resembling a museum came into being. That department was created by the bequest of Charles Herbert Pratt, which stipulated a