

Ind. Thirteen ascensions were made at Fort Omaha and seven at Indianapolis. Owing to an unforeseen difficulty at the last-named place the full program could not be completed. All the meteorographs sent up at Indianapolis have been recovered and thus far about one half of the Omaha instruments have been returned.

THE American Academy of Medicine will hold its third mid-year meeting at Yale University on November 11 and 12, when it will conduct a conference on "The prevention of infant mortality." There will be four sessions devoted, respectively, to medical, philanthropic, institutional and educational prevention, before which papers will be presented by distinguished speakers.

DR. VON BRUNCK, of the "Badische Anilin," has made a gift of 50,000 Marks to the Munich Academy on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of his entry in the industry.

Nature states that prizes to the value of £1,500 are offered by the National Medical Academy of Mexico for work on typhus fever. Of the sum named, £1,000 will be awarded to the discoverer of the cause of typhus, or of a curative serum, and £500 to the investigators whose work is judged most useful in helping towards such discovery. The competition is international, but all essays must be written in Spanish. They can be received up to February 28, 1911.

THE Herter lectures at the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College will be given this year by Professor Otto Cohnheim, of the University of Heidelberg. The lectures begin on Monday, December 6, at 4 P.M., and continue daily throughout the week. The subject is "Enzymes and their Actions." Those interested are cordially invited to attend.

THE fourth lecture in the series under the J. C. Campbell lecture fund was given on October 19, before the society of the Sigma Xi at Ohio State University, by Professor H. T. Ricketts, of the University of Chicago. The subject of the address was "The Transmission of Disease by Insects."

ON the program of the meeting of the American Philosophical Society for November 5 is a paper on "The Correlation of the Gastric and Intestinal Digestive Processes and the Influence of Emotions upon them" (with X-ray illustrations of the movements of the food in the digestive organs), by Dr. W. B. Cannon, professor of physiology in Harvard University.

PROFESSOR OTTO FOLIN, of Harvard University, has delivered a lecture before the Academy of Medicine, Cleveland, O., on "Ten Years' Progress in the Field of Metabolism."

THE American ambassador presided at the opening meeting of the winter session of the London School of Tropical Medicine, on October 26, when Professor W. Osler, M.D., F.R.S., regius professor of medicine at Oxford University, made the address on "The Nation and the Tropics."

THE Bradshaw lecture of the Royal College of Physicians of London, delivered on November 2 by Professor J. A. Lindsay, was on "Darwinism and Medicine." The FitzPatrick lectures by Sir T. Clifford Allbutt, on November 4 and 9, are on "Greek Medicine in Rome."

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the dedication of the monument to the memory of Professor P. Tillaux took place in the amphitheater of anatomy of the hospitals of Paris on October 29. This monument was the last work of the sculptor Chaplain. It is in marble, and represents Tillaux standing, his right hand on a half-dissected cadaver, giving his lesson in anatomy. The monument stands in the garden of the amphitheater where Tillaux was director of anatomy before being appointed professor in the medical school.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

FOLLOWING the acceptance of the gift by Mr. W. C. Procter of \$500,000 for the Graduate College of Princeton University, the trustees have chosen as its site the land added to the campus in 1905. This tract is a short distance to the southwest of the central campus. It contains 240 acres, sloping to the

southeast on contour lines similar to those of the older campus.

TEACHERS COLLEGE, Columbia University, will purchase, at a cost of about \$200,000, a ten-acre tract of ground overlooking Van Cortlandt Park, near the terminus of the subway. One third of the ground, a natural plateau about forty feet above the level of the park, will be used as an athletic field for the Horace Mann School. The remainder, a finely wooded plateau, about fifty feet higher, will be used for dormitories and houses for instructors.

DR. DONALD J. COWLING was installed as president of Carlton College at Northfield, Minn., on October 18.

DR. WILLIAM ARNOLD SHANKLIN will be installed as president of Wesleyan University on November 12.

MR. STEWART J. LLOYD has been made adjunct professor of chemistry at the University of Alabama.

LEON H. PENNINGTON, A.B. (Michigan, '07), Ph.D. ('09), has been appointed instructor in botany in Northwestern University.

At Wellesley College the following promotions have been made: Elizabeth Florette Fisher, B.S., from associate professor to professor of geology; Lincoln Ware Riddle, Ph.D., from instructor to associate professor of botany; Caroline Burling Thompson, Ph.D., from instructor to associate professor of zoology; Alice Robertson, Ph.D., from instructor to associate professor of zoology. With the reorganization of the department of physical education Amy Morris Homans, M.A., formerly director of the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics, becomes head of the department of hygiene and physical education. Miss Homans is joined in this work by Dr. Frederick Pratt, instructor in biology and hygiene, and Dr. Louis Collin, instructor in applied anatomy.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A REPLY TO DR. PERCIVAL LOWELL

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In your issue of September 10, Dr. Percival Lowell alleges that I have made four mistakes in my "Introduc-

tion to Astronomy," and from these alleged mistakes as premises he draws the unique conclusion that the planetesimal hypothesis "will not work." Quite apart from the validity of the allegations, it is, to me, a novel idea in logic that errors made in trying to support a proposition become thereby "disproof of it." One might infer by this sort of reasoning that the errors of the class-room have long since destroyed all the principles of mathematics. The logic of the present case is all the more remarkable in that two of the four alleged mistakes do not occur in my discussion of the planetesimal hypothesis at all, while the two that do relate to it are really one, and it is not shown that even this one has any *critical* relations to the hypothesis.

The first point raised by Dr. Lowell is in reference to the greatest and least velocities which meteors moving in parabolic orbits can have relatively to the earth, and in this discussion, which appears eighty-three pages before I have mentioned the planetesimal hypothesis, I have made an error for which I offer no excuse. In fact, it was quite inexcusable because I had fully treated, four years earlier, in my "Celestial Mechanics" (chapter VII.), the question of the motion of an infinitesimal body relatively to that of two finite bodies describing circles, and the velocity of impact of meteors is only a special case under it. If Dr. Lowell had been as generous in citing this earlier and fuller treatment as in quoting my brief remarks in the "Introduction to Astronomy," he could have omitted a considerable part of his own paper in the *Astronomical Journal*, whose method does not differ in any essential way from my exposition of the question. In fact, it would have been necessary only to have determined the constant of integration of my equation (7), page 186. But I made a mistake, and this seems to fix a new principle in logic with a quantitative function: a mistake in expounding one proposition, if made within 83 pages of the discussion of another proposition, throws discredit on the latter.

If it were not for the new logic, Dr. Lowell's second indictment would have nothing to do