

will hold a meeting once a year, are as follows: Pathological Department—Dr. William H. Welch, Baltimore; Dr. Theobald Smith, Boston; Dr. H. Gideon Wells, Chicago; Dr. Simon Flexner, New York. Clinical Department—Dr. James A. Miller, New York; Dr. Lawrason Brown, Saranac Lake, N. Y.; Dr. Joseph Pratt, Boston; Henry Baird Favill, Chicago. Sociologic Department—Dr. Samuel McC. Lindsay, New York; William H. Baldwin, Washington; Dr. Herman M. Biggs, New York; Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Harrisburg, Pa.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT is made of the receipt by Western Reserve University of a gift of \$250,000 by Mr. H. M. Hanna, as an addition to the endowment of the medical department. The income from this gift is to be largely used in the clinical departments to enable the school to put these departments upon a university basis.

MR. J. OGDEN ARMOUR has made a gift of \$70,000 to the Armour Institute of Technology.

DR. ROSCOE POUND, who has successively held chairs of law at the University of Nebraska, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago, has been appointed Story professor of law in Harvard University. Dr. Pound was for many years director of the Nebraska Botanical Survey and is well known for his contributions to botany.

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER S. LANGSDORF has been appointed dean of the school of engineering of Washington University, to succeed Professor Calvin M. Woodward. Professor Langsdorf will continue in active charge of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

At the annual meeting of the regents of the University of Nebraska Adjunct Professor Walker and Adjunct Professor Pool, of the department of botany, were promoted, with the title of assistant professor of botany. Professor Pool was made curator of the university herbarium, also, and to Professor Walker's

duties were added those of keeper of the botanical library.

At Cornell University instructors have been appointed as follows: M. M. Goldberg, in physics (promoted); Fred MacAllister, in botany; H. W. Mayes and M. H. Givens, in physiology and biochemistry (promoted).

DR. M. VERWORN, professor of physiology at the University of Göttingen has been called to Bonn to succeed the late Professor Pfüger.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### ON THE APPARENT SINKING OF SURFACE ICE IN LAKES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: During the disintegration of the surface ice in a lake in the spring it is a matter of common observation by the natives that the ice suddenly appears to sink, the surface of the lake becoming clear in a few hours. The explanation of this apparent anomaly was difficult to find until it became clear to me as a result of a careful study of the effect of water temperatures in the St. Lawrence River on the growth and decay of ice. The ice sheet which forms on the surface of quiet water becomes thicker on the underside only by the conduction of heat. The total thickness of the ice which will form in a single winter depends not only on the mean air temperature measured in degrees, but on the mean water temperature measured in thousandths of a degree above or below the freezing point.

From measurements made with my special micro-thermometer I have found that the temperature of the water just under the surface ice in a lake or deep river is usually one or two hundredths of a degree above the freezing point, due to the lower layers of warmer water.

In the spring this temperature is considerably higher and the effect of the warmer underwater rapidly honeycombs the ice, thus assisting the sun when the surface snow is absent. In a flowing river the effect of wind and current is to loosen the ice and it is soon carried down by the stream. In a quiet lake