

parently be no difficulty in filling it, to the great advantage of all branches of the community. An influential committee was formed, and the motion was carried unanimously.

It is stated in *Nature* that a committee appointed by Earl Carrington to advise the Board of Agriculture on all scientific questions bearing directly on the improvement of agriculture will deal especially with the methods to be adopted (a) for promoting agricultural research in universities and other scientific schools; (b) for aiding scientific workers engaged in the study of agricultural problems, and (c) for insuring that new scientific discoveries are utilized for the benefit of agriculturists. The committee will consist of the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Reay, Sir Edward Thorpe, C. B., F.R.S., Mr. David Davies, M.P., Dr. J. J. Dobbie, F.R.S. (principal of the government laboratories), Professor J. B. Farmer, F.R.S., Dr. S. F. Harmer, F.R.S. (keeper of zoology at the Natural History Museum), Dr. R. Stewart MacDougall (technical adviser in zoology to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries), Mr. T. H. Middleton (one of the assistant secretaries to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries), Mr. Spencer P. Pickering, F.R.S., Lieutenant Colonel David Prain, C.I.E., F.R.S. (director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), Mr. H. S. Staveland-Hill, M.P., Mr. Stewart Stockman (chief veterinary officer of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries), Dr. J. J. H. Teall, F.R.S. (director of the Geological Survey and Museum) and Dr. David Wilson. Mr. Middleton will act as chairman of the committee, and one of the officers of the Intelligence Division of the board will act as secretary. A meeting of the Society for Extending the Rothamsted Experiments was held at Rothamsted on June 16 under the presidency of the Duke of Devonshire. The society has been incorporated with the object of obtaining additional funds for the development of the agricultural investigations which have been carried on so long under the late Sir John Lawes and the Lawes Agricultural Trust which he

afterwards founded. The immediate object of the society is to obtain a sum of £5,000 in order to secure about 200 acres of land adjoining the present experimental fields, and erect thereon the buildings required for feeding experiments with the crops under investigation. An appeal for subscriptions towards thus securing a small self-contained farm for the Rothamsted Experimental Station is now being circulated, and at this meeting of the society a first list of donations was reported.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE additional sum of £21,000 for the Scottish universities is included in the supplementary estimates of the British government, bringing the total for the year to £63,000. This is an instalment of a grant recommended by a treasury committee presided over by Lord Elgin. The total addition recommended was about \$40,000.

LORD STRATHCONA, chancellor of Edinburgh University, has given the university £10,000 for the endowment of a chair of agriculture.

HERR GUSTAV EBBINGHAUS, of Bonn, has given \$25,000 toward a new physical laboratory for the university.

MORE than 2,600 students are attending the summer session of Columbia University, about 700 more than last year, which established a new record. The registrations since the beginning have been as follows: 1903, 993; 1904, 961; 1905, 1,018; 1906, 1,041; 1907, 1,392; 1908, 1,532; 1909, 1,971; 1910, 2,624.

THE department of plant pathology of the New York State College of Agriculture as organized for 1910-11 shows the following staff, together with the fellows on research work. The line of investigation which each has under way is also indicated. H. H. Whetzel, professor in charge. Dr. Donald Reddick, assistant professor and expert on the diseases of grapes, will have charge of all the field laboratories. Mr. M. F. Barrus, instructor, expert on the diseases of beans, will have a general charge of the extension work of the department. H. W. Anderson, regular

assistant in the teaching work; Mr. Charles Gregory, regular assistant on the grape disease investigations; Miss Agnes McAllister, laboratory assistant; Errett Wallace, fellow, lime sulfur investigation; V. B. Stewart, fellow, investigation of the diseases of nursery stock; C. N. Jensen, senior fellow on sulfur investigations; F. M. Blodgett, junior fellow on sulfur investigations; W. H. Rankin, fellow, investigation of the heart rots of trees; P. J. Anderson, fellow on cement dust investigations; I. C. Jagger, special assistant potato disease investigation; H. L. Rees, special assistant diseases of canners' crops; G. A. Osner, special assistant ginseng disease investigations; Miss Jessie M. Peck and Miss Margaret Edwards, stenographers.

DR. GUY POTTER BENTON, president of Miami University, has declined the presidency of Boston University.

DR. ROBERT B. BEAN, recently connected with the School of Medicine of Manila, P. I., has been elected associate professor of anatomy in the Medical School of Tulane University in place of Dr. H. W. Stiles, who has accepted a professorship in anatomy in Syracuse University.

DR. T. A. TORREY has been promoted to a full professorship of physical instruction and hygiene in the College of the City of New York.

MR. B. H. DOANE has been elected assistant professor of farm management in the University of Missouri and is placed in charge of the department, which is said to be the first of this character in the United States.

MR. CHAS. G. COLLAIS has resigned his position of Superintendent of Shops in the engineering school of Colorado College to accept the position of dean in the Kamehameha schools in Honolulu. Professor George J. Lyon, of the department of civil engineering in Colorado College, has accepted a similar position at Union College.

PROFESSOR A. VON STRÜMPPELL, who a year ago went to Vienna as professor of neurology, has accepted a call to Leipzig as successor to Professor H. Curschmann.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I recommend the following reform of the calendar:

The division of the year into twelve entire and two half-months; all entire months to consist of 28 days, and the half-months of 14 days. The first of the two half-months will be placed at the end of the first half year, and will be known as the "summer half-month"; the second half-month will follow the last month in the year, and will be known as the "winter half-month."

The 365th day and leap-year's day will be placed at the end of the year, and will be independent of the week or month, so that these days will neither have the name nor the date of a week-day.

I had at first expressed the idea (which I thought quite new) of dividing the year into 13 months of 28 days each; but it has come to my knowledge that this proposal had already been advocated by Auguste Comte, the philosopher, who died in 1857. After consideration, I would advise the above mentioned division as being more practical.

The advantages of such a calendar would be as follows:

Each day of the week would be in its fixed and unchangeable place in the future.

Each month would begin on the same week-day, this also applying to each year, each half-year and each quarter of the year.

This division would make the week and month measures of time, because the units "year" and "month" would, by this means, become, with an insignificant difference, complete multiples, always equal, of the time-unit "week," which is not the case at present.

A full explanation of the expediency of my proposition I shall eventually give later on.

Fritz REININGHAUS

ZURICH

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### QUOTATIONS

#### THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION

THERE have been some expressions of apprehension of late lest the financial depend-