

The lectures are given on Monday and Tuesday afternoons at four o'clock.

PROFESSOR KARL BEZOLD, of the University of Heidelberg, is lecturing on ancient oriental art at Chicago, Princeton and other universities.

PROFESSOR J. F. KEMP, of Columbia University, lectured on the Catskill Aqueduct of New York and the application of geology to great engineering enterprises, at the Pennsylvania State College on February 25. After the lecture a banquet was tendered Dr. Kemp by the Research Club, consisting of the local members of the Sigma Xi.

THE forty-fourth annual presidential address was given on February 13 by Albert McCalla, Ph.D., before the State Microscopical Society of Illinois at Chicago, the subject being "Microscopic Research as an aid to Industrial Arts and Allied Sciences."

ON February 25 Professor H. H. Turner began a course of three lectures at the Royal Institution on "The Movements of the Stars"; and on Thursday, March 6, Mr. W. B. Hardy delivered the first of two lectures on "Surface Energy." The Friday evening discourse on February 28 was delivered by the Hon. R. J. Strutt on "Active Nitrogen," and on March 7 by Mr. C. T. R. Wilson on "The Photography of the Paths of Particles ejected from Atoms."

DR. PHILIP HANSON HISS, professor of bacteriology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, the author of important researches on immunity and infectious diseases, died on February 27, aged forty-four years.

CHARLES W. HOOKER, Ph.D., entomologist of the Federal Experiment Station and plant inspector of the Port of Mayaguez, Porto Rico, died on February 12, at the age of thirty, following an attack of appendicitis. Dr. Hooker, who was a graduate of Amherst College in the class of 1906, received his doctor's degree in entomology at the Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1909.

SIR WILLIAM WHITE, F.R.S., the distinguished naval architect, for many years chief

constructor of the British navy, president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for the next annual meeting, died on February 28, aged sixty-eight years.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of John Fritz, the iron master, his residuary estate amounting to about \$150,000 is given to Lehigh University primarily as an endowment fund for the maintenance of the Fritz Engineering and Testing Laboratory. It is also announced that Mr. Charles L. Taylor, of Pittsburgh, has given Lehigh University a gift for a large gymnasium and a stadium.

By the will of the late Mr. C. C. Weld, of Newport, R. I., the Boston Lying-In Hospital receives \$125,000, and the Boston Dispensary \$100,000, while the residuary estate, valued at nearly \$4,000,000, is in case the daughter of the decedent dies without issue, to be divided between the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

PLANS for the new electrical laboratory of Harvard University, which is to be built between the Jefferson Physical Laboratory and the Peirce Hall, are nearing completion, and it is expected that actual work of construction will begin early in the spring. The building will cost about \$60,000 and is an anonymous gift to the university.

APPLICATIONS for the Kahn Foundation for the Foreign Travel of American Teachers should be handed to the secretary of the foundation, Sub-station 84, New York City. The next fellows will be selected by the trustees early in May and will begin their travels on July 1, 1913. The reports of the first appointees, Professor Francis Daniels, of Wabash College, and Professor J. H. T. McPherson, of the University of Georgia, are now in the printer's hands. Two fellows are at present abroad: Professor Ivan M. Linforth, of the University of California, is about to leave Germany for the Orient; and Professor William E. Kellicott, of Goucher College, is at present in the British Isles and will shortly

leave for France. The fellowships carry with them stipends of \$3,000 and no obligations other than that of making a year's trip around the world and the rendering of a report thereon to the trustees.

AN anonymous donor has offered to the University of Cambridge £10,000 towards the endowment of a chair of astrophysics.

THE University of Birmingham having received an offer from the Board of Agriculture of a grant-in-aid, to be expended in carrying on a research department in agricultural zoology, has appointed Professor F. W. Gamble, F.R.S., as director of the new department.

DR. WALLACE W. ATWOOD, associate professor of physiography and general geology in the University of Chicago, has been appointed professor of physiography in Harvard University.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

CYTOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

THE only possible use for a system of nomenclature is to secure accuracy and convenience in its application. So soon as it produces confusion and becomes unwieldy and cumbersome it defeats its purpose. The real reasons for applying a name to an object are to secure its accurate identification and to facilitate description. It is entirely secondary whether this name is descriptive or not. This fact is fully recognized among biologists in establishing the rule of priority, the sole purpose of which is to secure a definite and permanent relation between an object and its name.

Considerations of this sort apparently have no appeal to cytologists, whose nomenclature is accordingly falling into lamentable confusion. This has resulted very largely from an evident desire to make each term descriptive rather than precise. The same object, whose common identity is recognized by every observer, may, in each study, receive a different name because some real, or supposed, characteristic appeals to the describer. The final result of this practise is easily foretold and is even now making itself manifest. The be-

ginner, instead of being able to acquaint himself with the known facts, is obliged to spend a large part of his time in untangling a complicated terminology; and, unless he has the help of some one personally familiar with the varied career of each term employed, is very apt to go astray. Much time and trouble are also expended by the initiated in discussing the relative descriptive values of the names given to the same object.

It should be the purpose of every investigator to make the machinery of his science as simple as possible and to subordinate everything to the main aim of discovery. The reasonable way to accomplish this is to profit by the experiences of workers in other and older fields and to make such applications of general principles as have been found desirable and necessary in actual practise. It is of little moment whether we are endeavoring to discriminate between two organisms or between two structural elements of these organisms—in either case it is necessary for us to designate the contrasted objects by names which apply to them alone. At the same time it very much simplifies the discussion if but a single term is used for each. Systematists have found that the only way to secure this precision is to insist that the first name applied to any kind of organism be its designation, whether descriptive or not. It seems to me that cytologists may well profit by the hard-earned experiences of the taxonomists and avoid the difficulties of an ineffective terminology. Another practise of systematists that is suggestive of simplicity is the use of qualifying prefixes to well-established words where a new term is called for in the discussion of a subgroup. I feel convinced that a recognition by cytologists of these two principles of nomenclature would do much toward reducing the confusion now existing.

There may be some who do not agree with me regarding the subordinate value of the descriptive element in terminology and who would cite the B N A system of anatomists as a support of their view that terms should be descriptive. The conditions confronting the two classes of workers are, however, entirely