

THE governor of Minnesota has recommended to the legislature that \$25,000 be appropriated at the present session for the use of the state entomologist in combating white pine blister rust in Minnesota. As arranged, the plant pathologist of the experiment station and the state entomologist will work in cooperation the coming season; the plant pathologist to have charge of scouting and eradication along the eastern border of Minnesota in the St. Croix Valley; the state entomologist, by virtue of his office as nursery inspector, will take care of inspection and eradication in nurseries, parks, cemeteries and private plantings. It is expected that the state of Wisconsin will cooperate energetically on its side of the St. Croix River.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THROUGH the generosity of a friend of Harvard University, who prefers to remain unknown, there has been established an assistant professorship of bacteriology in the Harvard Medical School, to be known as the Silas Arnold Houghton Professorship. In the words of the donor, the gift is made "in grateful memory of Dr. Houghton as a physician and a friend."

M. G. KAINS, professor of horticulture and horticulturist at the Pennsylvania College and Station, has resigned and has been succeeded by Dr. S. W. Fletcher, formerly director of the Virginia Station.

DR. H. B. FANTHAM, of Christ's College, Cambridge, has been appointed to the professorship of zoology at the South African School of Mines and Technology, Johannesburg, and Dr. C. E. Moss, of Emmanuel College, has been appointed professor of botany to the same institution.

AT London University Mr. James John Guest, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, has been appointed to the university readership in graphics and structural engineering, tenable at University College, in succession to Dr. W. H. Eccles, reader in graphics, who has been appointed professor of applied physics and electrical engineering at Finsbury Technical College.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE SLIDES OF THE PANAMA CANAL

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In view of the fact that portions of the annual report of the governor of the Panama Canal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, containing criticisms of the writer's views of the canal slides have been published recently in many newspapers throughout the country, the writer is impelled to make the following statement.

The governor implies in his report that the sole basis for the writer's expressed opinion that "practically all of Gold Hill and much of Zion Hill must be removed" "before the Canal can be said to be completed and permanently opened to traffic" was, as he states, an investigation of "fully three or four hours" and says that he (the writer) stated that he had made a "thorough examination." In the first place, the writer did not state that he had made a "thorough examination," these words being used without the writer's knowledge. Whether the examination was sufficiently thorough and enough information obtained to justify an expression of opinion may be determined from the following statements.

It is doubtful whether any other activity of the government has ever received equal publicity through the press, official reports, lectures and descriptions of returned visitors and employees as has the Panama Canal during its construction, so that there has been no excuse for any interested person not having exact and detailed information concerning the canal project.

The writer, as well as most geologists, had his interest aroused several years ago, by the unexpected difficulties encountered by the Panama Canal engineers. This was especially the case because it was evident that the combination of geological and climatic conditions prevailing there were mainly responsible for the troubles. From careful studies of much published and unpublished data the writer was fairly familiar with the situation long before the opportunity came to visit the region.

On returning from an extensive trip through the South American continent, the writer