

year adapted to war conditions. Announcement and further information can be obtained by addressing C. B. Davenport, Cold Spring Harbor, New York.

THE meeting of the British Association, which it was hoped would be held in Cardiff this year, has been cancelled. The local committee has reluctantly decided that satisfactory arrangements could not be made to ensure success for the meeting, and has sent a resolution to that effect to the council of the association. The council has accepted this view, so that for two years in succession the annual assembly of workers in all departments of science will not take place. Sir Arthur Evans has consented to occupy the office of president for another year, and there will be a statutory meeting in London on July 5 to receive reports of committees and transact other business, but otherwise the corporate life of the association will continue in a state of suspended animation, though there never has been a more favorable time than now to make the nation realize the debt it owes to science for the successful conduct of the war and the need for unceasing scientific activity to prepare for the industrial struggle which the future must bring.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

SIR WILLIAM SCHLICH, F.R.S., professor of forestry in Oxford University, has received £500 from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, to be added to the fund for the permanent endowment of the professorship of forestry. With the sums already contributed, the capital of the fund now amounts to over £6,300, and the annual income from all sources to about £300 a year, making about half of what is required.

A COMMITTEE, of which Sir William Osler is chairman, met in Cardiff recently to prepare a scheme for the Mansel-Talbot chair of preventive medicine in the University of Wales endowed by Miss Talbot. When the scheme had been approved the election of a professor will be proceeded with.

PRESIDENT BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER, of the University of California, has again asked for an increase in salaries for members of the California faculty. A year ago men of the grade of instructor and assistant professor received an increase of ten per cent.

JULIAN L. COOLIDGE, assistant professor of mathematics at Harvard University, has been advanced to a full professorship.

AT the Pennsylvania State College, E. H. Dusham has been promoted to be professor of entomology; M. D. Leonard, instructor in entomology at Cornell University, has been appointed instructor in entomology extension and R. C. Walton, of the Ohio Experiment Station, instructor in plant pathology.

DR. KIRTLEY F. MATHER, professor of paleontology at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, is acting professor of geology and geography at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, for the spring term.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE EXISTENCE OF LECITHIN

SOME eight years ago and again very recently, Barbieri¹ has reported results of experiments which he claims proves the non-existence of lecithin. His arguments are the following:

The fatty matter of egg yolk can be separated in a state of purity by the aid of neutral solvents. The nitrogen-containing bodies can be removed by simple dialysis or by repeated washing with distilled water in the presence of a little alcohol. The fat yields on hydrolysis nothing but glycerol and fatty acids. Glycerolphosphoric acid can not be obtained by treating the egg yolk with a neutral solvent. It appears only after hydrolysis. The phosphorus occurs only in the form of metallic (potassium, sodium, calcium or magnesium) salts of phosphoric acid and is entirely dialyzable. Egg yolk contains no trace of choline, the supposed biological choline being a product of either the degradation of the ovochromin or of putrefaction.

From these results it would appear that the compound ordinarily called lecithin is a mixture of fats, phosphates and dialyzable nitro-

¹ Barbieri, N. A., *Comp. rend.*, 1910, 151, 405; *Gaz.*, 1917, 47, 1-13; *J. Chem. Soc.*, 112, I, 238.