

*Nature* says: "The facts made known by Lord Gainford and Lord Harcourt in the House of Lords on February 26 show that a long time must elapse before our museums and the staff of the Board of Education can resume their work unhindered. The latter body is scattered throughout London, while its records are stored in the galleries of the Victoria and Albert Museum. Half that museum is closed to the public, its circulation department shut down, its textile classes and other aids to industry suspended. The priceless Wallace collections are still in underground tubes. The National Portrait Gallery, the London Museum, the Tate Gallery and the British Museum galleries of prints and of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities, as well as much of its storage space, are occupied by huge clerical staffs. Finally, the exhibition galleries of the Imperial Institute continue to be filled with a succession of other departments; the institute's lectures and demonstrations are in abeyance and its own research work is hampered because the raw materials are stored elsewhere. The result is not only to disappoint the American and Dominion troops, and to deny the British taxpayer the enjoyment of his great educational establishments; it is, above all, a serious check on the commercial and industrial development of the country. Unavoidable the delay may be, yet we can not help feeling that the situation would not have arisen had ministers a truer appreciation of the work done by and in our public museums."

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE gift of a chemical laboratory to Cornell University has already been announced. In a recent address President Schurman quoted the words of the anonymous donor: "I will provide you with a chemical laboratory, fully adequate to the needs of the university, and one that will in all respects and size be the best there is in America." It is said that the laboratory may cost \$1,500,000 and that the new building will be placed where President Schurman's house now stands.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY receives \$50,000 by the will of the late Arthur Pemberton Sturges, and \$10,000 by the will of the late Samuel K. Martin.

PROFESSOR DEXTER S. KIMBALL has been elected chairman of the faculty committee on organization of the College of Engineering of Cornell University, which will combine the two existing colleges. He was also elected dean of the new college upon its organization in 1921, when Dean Haskell and Dean Smith will retire by reason of having attained the age of sixty-five years.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR W. S. FOSTER, of the department of psychology, of Cornell University, goes to the university of Minnesota as full professor.

DR. ARTHUR W. HIXSON has been appointed associate professor of chemical engineering at Columbia University. Professor Hixson was formerly associate professor of industrial chemistry and metallurgy at the University of Iowa, but for the last year he has been in the Ordnance Department at Washington. Dr. J. J. Morgan, assistant professor of chemistry at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N. J., has been appointed assistant professor of chemical engineering.

At Lehigh University Ralph J. Fogg, a member of the civil engineering department for eleven years, has been appointed professor of civil engineering and head of the department, and Dr. Fred V. Larkin, for the past four years assistant superintendent of the Harrisburg Pipe and Pipe Bending Company, has been appointed professor of mechanical engineering and head of the department.

At Rutgers College P. H. Van der Menlen, Ph.D., has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry; Geo. W. Martin, M.A., assistant professor of botany; Thurlow C. Nelson, Ph.D., assistant professor of zoology, and T. Alan Devan, M.D., professor of hygiene and sanitary science.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL FRANK D. ADAMS has returned from Europe for the purpose of as-

turning the position of acting principal of McGill University.

At McGill University Captain S. E. Whinnall, demonstrator of human anatomy, Oxford, has been appointed professor of anatomy, and John Tait, lecturer in experimental physiology in the University of Edinburgh, professor of physiology.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: From the discussions taking place concerning the history of science, and from the opening up of other unexplored fields of thought and research, it is happily only too evident that this country is once more approaching peace conditions and looking forward to greater things—among them, a fundamental position in education and science.

The letters in SCIENCE, April 4, by Dr. Felix Neumann, and May 9 by Dr. George A. Miller, have simply expressed a phase of the current of thought passing through our revision of ideas concerning the importance of science, study and research—all tending to a broader cultured type of scientific learning. It is not so much as emphasizing a national characteristic in the great international unification of learning, but as developing a new epoch in the history of science itself. In the words of Dr. George Sarton—we must try to reconcile idealism and knowledge, science and art, truth and beauty—the ability of every one to do so is the real measure of his education. In the last analysis it is the message of the New Humanism.

For this reason, if for no other, the study of the history of Science is to be encouraged, and no greater impetus can be given to it than by a full recognition of this new Section "K" by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

This matter was broached during 1915 in an article in SCIENCE<sup>1</sup> which resulted in a number of letters giving encouragement, but

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, N. S., Vol. XLI, No. 1053, March 5, 1915, pp. 358-360.

like all such advancing ideals, not pertaining to the war, it made no progress.

The writer wrote to Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, editor of SCIENCE, concerning this proposed Section in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and in reply the following statement was received.

I should think that there would be a good deal to be said for a section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science devoted to the history and methods of science. It might be best to begin with a sub-section under the section of anthropology and psychology, and it could be seen whether enough interest were taken to justify the establishment of a section. The best plan would doubtless be to correspond with those interested and then present a statement to the council of the association.

In another letter, quoting from Dr. Lynn Thorndike, Department of History, Western Reserve University, a proposition was advanced for the same purpose—namely, to call together a group of interested persons (no matter from what field of research) to discuss plans for an organization to be affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Therefore, it might be said that the time is propitious for such an organization, especially as we will note further from other facts.

Dr. Neumann's plan for Section "K" would attract not alone scientists, but also historians of the social, economic and political science groups. Philosophers too, would no doubt be interested. This, then, would tend to make the American Association for the Advancement of Science an "encyclopedic" organization.

In Dr. Neumann's letter to Dr. Howard, he emphasizes the principle of "nationalism" by making the purpose of the section to the study of the history and progress of science in America alone. Much valuable work can be done here, to be sure, "but can we afford to neglect the centuries gone before?" Nor has Dr. Neumann mentioned what historical work has been done in the United States already. These attempts are worthy of mention, since they form a beginning and stepping stones as well as examples for other fields