

It is announced that Dr. J. Rodríguez Caracido, the chemist and president of the University of Madrid, is a member of a Spanish delegation leaving soon for the United States.

CAPTAIN CAFFE, formerly of the Royal Air Force, left Winnipeg, Manhattan, in an airplane on October 31, to attempt the rescue of J. B. Tirrell, the geologist and mining engineer, reported to be "frozen in" and without supplies in the Rice Lake district. Attempts made to reach Mr. Tirrell by boats have been unsuccessful.

SIR BERTRAM WINDLE, F.R.S., in his annual report to the governing body of University College, Cork, announces that his resignation of the presidency of the college will shortly take effect. He has accepted an invitation from St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto to deliver a course of lectures on "Science in relation to the scholastic philosophy" during the first three months of next year.

DR. R. H. A. PLIMMER, reader in physiological chemistry, University College, London, has been appointed head of the biochemical department of Craibstone Animal Nutrition Research Institute, which is under the direction of Aberdeen University and the North of Scotland College of Agriculture.

DR. DONALD W. DAVIS, Ph.D., has returned to his position as professor of biology at William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Va. He spent the last three months of his stay overseas in research work in genetics at the John Innes Horticultural Institution.

PROFESSOR GEORGES E. DREYER, of Oxford University, delivered the first lecture at Western Reserve University School of Medicine on the H. M. Hanna Lecture Fund, on October 27, the subject being "Vital capacity and physical fitness."

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It is planned to establish a post-graduate school in medicine in Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. The department is intended to offer opportunities for further

study of practising physicians who desire to acquaint themselves with current medical and surgical investigation. The course will begin next June, and is being arranged by a committee of three members of the faculty of the school of medicine. There will be short, intensive courses, without degrees, and a longer course, which will lead to the degree of A.M. in medicine. The latter is especially designed for regular students who may wish to continue their study before taking up their practise. It will be in connection with the establishment of several teaching fellowships.

LLOYD's Register of Shipping has presented £10,000 to the fund which is being raised to establish a Degree in Commerce at the University of London.

IN the Towne Scientific School of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Milo S. Ketchum, has been made professor of civil engineering, he filling the post made vacant by the death of the late Dr. Edgar Marburg. He brings with him as assistant professor Dr. Clarence L. Eckel, from the University of Colorado. This department loses Dr. William Easby, Jr., professor of municipal engineering and Charles L. Warwick, assistant professor of structural engineering.

DR. A. G. HOGAN has left Kansas State Agricultural College to take the chair of biochemistry in the medical school of the University of Alabama, at Mobile. He will be succeeded at the Kansas college by Dr. J. S. Hughes.

PAUL EMERSON, Ph. D. (Iowa State), has resigned as associate bacteriologist at the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station to accept the position of assistant professor of soils and assistant chief in soil bacteriology at Iowa State College. In that institute H. W. Johnson, M.S., has been transferred from his position of assistant in soil bacteriology to that of associate professor of soils and assistant chief in soil chemistry in humus investigations.

SINCE Fordham Medical School closed the registration in the freshmen and sophomore classes and decided to close in 1921, Dr. Carl

P. Sherwin has been transferred from the medical school, where he held a professorship in physiological chemistry, to the university. The department of chemistry in the university has been entirely reorganized with Dr. Sherwin as the head; John A. Daly and George J. Shipley are professors and Walter A. Hynes, William Wolfe and William J. Fordung, assistant professors.

DR. H. L. IBSEN, of the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed assistant professor of animal husbandry in charge of the courses and the experimental work in genetics at the Kansas State Agricultural College.

CHARLES HARLAN ABBOTT, Ph.D. (Brown, '18), has become instructor in zoology in Massachusetts Agricultural College.

MR. HUBERT SHEPPARD has been elected instructor in anatomy in the University of Kansas.

DR. A. E. HENNINGS, formerly professor of physics at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, and more recently assistant professor of physics at the University of Chicago, has accepted an appointment in the department of physics at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. The departmental staff as now constituted is represented by Drs. T. C. Hebb, A. E. Hennings, J. G. Davidson and Mr. P. H. Elliott.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### NATURAL FIELD SANITATION IN CHINA

IN the thickly populated parts of South China there are a considerable number of people who financially are very poor; it is a constant struggle with them to obtain food for themselves and for any live stock which they may possess, such as chickens and ducks, a few hogs, or possibly a carabao. Fuel is also very scarce and such waste vegetable matter as becomes dried is promptly utilized for heating purposes. This struggle for food and fuel leads to a prompt utilization of all waste vegetable material. Small leaves, insignificant to us for this use, are picked up sometimes one by one and it is a very common sight to see small boys and girls, too small as

yet to do heavy labor, picking up or sweeping up fallen leaves for fuel. Gardens and fields therefore are usually entirely free of old decaying vegetable material.<sup>1</sup> In this connection an observation upon the absence of leaf spot diseases on field crops in South China is of possible interest.

Sweet potatoes (*Ipomœa batatas*), tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*), turnips (*Brassica campestris*), onions (*Allium cepa*), chard (*Beta cicla*), beans (*Phaseolus* sp.), carrots (*Daucus carota*) and cauliflower (*Brassica* sp.) are commonly grown in South China. Observation of these field crops has shown them to be surprisingly free from the leaf spot diseases which would ordinarily affect these crops in the United States. These observations have been at two separate periods, at both times the weather being very moist and with temperatures which would not limit development of the causal fungi. It would seem as if these farmers in their utilization of all waste material as fuel and the consequent removal of sources of infection, maintain their crops almost entirely free from these diseases. That is, apparently the absence of leaf spot diseases may be accounted for by the field sanitation, practised unknowingly by the Chinese farmers.

These observations are put forward only as an illustration of what may be called field sanitation, carried out on a large scale with apparently successful results. This would suggest that in the United States much could be gained by more careful field methods and the

<sup>1</sup> Professor F. H. King in his very interesting book, "Farmers of Forty Centuries," discusses the use of compost heaps very completely. The use of compost heaps containing remnants and wastes of plant material is of course a great means for the dissemination of diseases of crop plants. Since one reading Professor King's work might consider it to refute the present suggestion, it seems well to explain that in South China such compost heaps are much more uncommon than in the region around Shanghai and Shantung province, and although compost heaps have been seen near Canton they are few and do not seem to play the part in the agricultural scheme that they do farther north.