

those who have labored intelligently and effectively in this cause, and I am glad to be associated with an organization which proposes to project that great service into the future.

The Gorgas Memorial Institute which will be established at Panama City will have an endowment fund of \$5,000,000 raised by popular subscription.

THE Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology will meet at St. Louis from December 27 to 29.

THE International Union of Physics, which includes representatives from France, Belgium, Denmark, Japan, Poland and the United States, will hold its first general assembly at Paris from December 28 to 31.

AN exposition organized in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the French Physical Society will be held in Paris during the first weeks of December.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that a group of northern Ohio residents have organized to establish a model health community and nerve rehabilitation center near Cleveland. The charter, which has been taken out under the name of the Psychiatric Foundation of the Western Reserve, will be on the order of the MacLean Institute, Boston; the Friends Hospital, Philadelphia, and the Sheppard and Pratt Hospital, near Baltimore. It is designed as a rest colony and research center. Laboratory equipment will be installed for the investigation of all phases of practical psychology, and the cause and treatment of nervous and mental ailments. The staff will comprise an experienced psychiatrist and a corps of physicians, nurses and aids. The institution will be heavily endowed and will be operated on a cost basis.

WE learn from *Nature* that Professor J. J. R. Macleod, professor of physiology in the University of Toronto, who was recently awarded the Cameron prize for 1923, delivered two lectures in the University of Edinburgh on October 16 and 17, respectively, on the nature of control of the metabolism of carbohydrates in the animal body. He dealt with the discovery of insulin and its value in the investigation, not only of diabetes, but also of other problems of metabolism. The Cameron prize was founded in 1878, and is awarded to an investigator who in the course of the five years immediately preceding has made an important addition to practical therapeutics.

THE Mayo Foundation, in cooperation with the local chapter of Sigma Xi and the universities of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska, and Washington University (St. Louis), has arranged a course of lectures to be given this autumn and winter on various phases of heredity. The first lecture was given Octo-

ber 29 at the University of Wisconsin by William Ernest Castle, professor of zoology at Harvard University, Boston, on "Heredity—the general problem and its historical setting." Professor Castle delivered the same lecture at Rochester on October 30, at Minneapolis on October 31, at Omaha on November 1, and at St. Louis on November 2. Other lectures were as follows: November 6, Professor John A. Detlefsen, Sc.D., of the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, "The inheritance of acquired characteristics"; November 19, Miss Maud Slye, University of Chicago, "Heredity in relation to cancer," and December 4, Professor Harry Gideon Wells, University of Chicago, "Human cancer from the standpoint of heredity."

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for a series of "symposia" at Harvard—meetings at which two or three members of the Harvard Faculty will discuss one scientific subject from different points of view. The first of these symposia was held on November 6. The subject was "The origin of life." The speakers and their topics were: (a) "Life throughout the universe," Harlow Shapley, Paine professor of practical astronomy and director of the Harvard College Observatory; (b) "Early phases of terrestrial life," Edward C. Jeffrey, professor of plant morphology; (c) "Life and spirit," Kirsopp Lake, Winn professor of ecclesiastical history. Early in December the second symposium will be held. The general title will be "Sound," and it is expected that the speakers will be Associate Professor Frederick A. Saunders, of the department of physics; Archibald T. Davison, associate professor of music, college organist and choir master; and Professor George H. Parker, of the department of zoology and director of the zoological laboratory.

THE Special Board for Biology and Geology of the University of Cambridge have recommended that £100 per annum of the Worts Traveling Bachelors Fund should be subscribed to the Zoological Station at Naples. During the war and for some time afterwards the station passed under the control of the Italians, who appointed Professor Monticelli as president; but it has now reverted to the management of Dr. Rinehardt Dohrn, son of the founder of the station, who is now director, and is assisted by a committee thoroughly representative of Italian science and Italian affairs. The connection of Cambridge with the Naples laboratory has lasted unbroken for half a century.

EDUCATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY NOTES

CORNELL University announces the receipt of a gift of \$200,000 from an anonymous donor for the purpose of establishing an endowment fund, the pro-

ceeds of which are to be devoted to research work in the department of pediatrics in Cornell University Medical College in New York City.

THE trustees of Rutgers College, on October 12, received an anonymous gift of \$150,000 for an addition to the Vorhees Library building.

IN the will of the late William S. Richardson, who died October 6, the sum of \$75,000 is left to the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital, Boston, on condition it keeps pace with the general advancement of medicine and surgery for the next five years. If the hospital is not progressive the fund will go equally to Harvard University and the Sulgrave Institution, which institutions are to receive the remainder of the \$210,000 estate.

It is announced that the formal opening of the Atlanta Graduate School of Physicians and Surgeons will take place April 9, 1924. Dr. William Perrin Nicolson is dean, Dr. Garnett W. Quillian, vice-dean, and Dr. Michael Hoke, president of the faculty.

EDGAR ALLEN, Ph.D., Washington University, St. Louis, has been appointed professor of anatomy at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia.

GEORGE R. GAGE has been appointed an instructor in botany in the department of biology of DePauw University for the present year.

DR. OLE N. DEWEERDT has been appointed head of the department of psychology at Beloit College.

DR. IRVING S. BARKSDALE, Richmond, has been elected associate professor of physiology at the Medical College of South Carolina at Charleston.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

SODIRO HERBARIUM

WHILE at Quito I had the opportunity of examining the herbarium left by the well-known botanist, Sodiro, who brought together the only important collection of plants in Ecuador. The collection is housed at the Colegio de San Gabriel, a Jesuit institution, where it is appreciated and is being well kept. My examination was confined to the grasses, but I assume from the size and general appearance of the collection that all families are well represented.

The original Sodiro specimens are, for the most part, mounted and well labeled. Nearly all are accompanied in the herbarium by one to several duplicates, these being sometimes mounted but usually unmounted, lying in folders with the labeled specimens.

I was permitted to select a series of duplicates for the U. S. National Herbarium, for which I was charged ten dollars per hundred. Apparently the

college is willing and anxious to dispose of the duplicates at the price mentioned. Those interested in Andean botany would do well to supply themselves. I am informed that the college has a collection of about 400 birds that it wishes to sell. Of the condition of these I know nothing. It will be of interest to botanists to know that the college has on hand extra copies of many of the publications of Sodiro which it wishes to sell. Father Mille, through whose kindness I was enabled to examine the herbarium, and who is the only Ecuadorean botanist interested in collecting, is adding to the Sodiro Herbarium.

All communications should be addressed to Father Luis Mille, Apertada 266, Quito, Ecuador.

A. S. HITCHCOCK

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

A CLASS EXPERIMENT TO SHOW THE BEHAVIOR OF HEMOGLOBIN TOWARD VARIOUS GASES

Two years ago I introduced into the laboratory work of my class in biochemistry at the University of Virginia a simple experiment which has proved so successful in making real to students the behavior of hemoglobin under exposure to various gases that I am passing it on to others. The points of special value in the experiment are: (1) avoidance of frothing of the laked blood by bubbling gases through it; (2) convenience in observation of the spectrum; and (3) ease of estimating the approximate and relative times required for the completion of the various reactions observed.

Into the side of a 250 cc balloon flask is fused a 10 x 80 mm test-tube; the size of test-tube is chosen so that it will fit into the holder of a direct vision hand spectroscope. The mouth of the flask is closed by a 2-hole stopper; glass inlet and outlet tubes, shown in the diagram, permit the passage of any gas through the flask. It is thus possible to spread a solution in a thin layer over the sides of the flask during aeration and to return it immediately to the test-tube for spectroscopic examination.

Laked blood is diluted with water until, when examined spectroscopically in a small test tube, two distinct and fairly deep absorption bands of oxyhemoglobin are seen. This oxyhemoglobin solution is then poured into the dry spectroscopic glass flask and the stopper made tight. Stop-cocks are provided on each piece of rubber tubing to insure exclusion of air during spectroscopic examinations.

A current of nitrogen, hydrogen or carbon dioxide is then passed through the flask while the laked blood is kept spread in thin layers on the walls by gentle rotation, and the reduction of the oxyhemoglobin to