

THE National Museum of Wales at Cardiff has received from Sir William Reardon and Lady Smith a further sum of £5,000, bringing their total contribution to £15,000.

THE American Society for Clinical Investigation has founded a journal to be called the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, and Dr. G. Canby Robinson, dean-elect and professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University, will be editor-in-chief. The new journal has been made possible by a grant to the society by the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. The first issue appeared in October.

---

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

HARVARD COLLEGE is the beneficiary of one half the estate of George True Nealley, of New York, and the National Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society divide the other half equally. The value of his estate was not made known.

It is announced that the University of Pittsburgh has completed plans for the erection of a fifty-two story building, 680 feet high, to be the center of the university activities.

A NEW group of four buildings at Western University, London, Ontario, which has cost £300,000, were formally opened on October 23.

A CELEBRATION commemorative of the centennial of the foundation of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina took place at Charleston on November 12 and 13.

THE statutes of the University of London have been amended to allow the university to confer the degree of bachelor of pharmacy.

DR. L. W. TAYLOR, of the University of Chicago, has been appointed head of the department of physics at Oberlin College, to take the place of Professor S. R. Williams, who has resigned.

WILFRED ELDRD, associate in the food research institute of Stanford University, has been appointed to a research professorship in the University of Washington.

DR. HAROLD ST. JOHN, of the department of botany at the State College of Washington, has been promoted to be associate professor of botany and curator of the herbarium.

DR. GLENN E. CULLEN, associate professor of research medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed professor of biochemistry in the

medical school of Vanderbilt University. Dr. Cullen will be in Europe for a year at Rigs Hospital, Copenhagen.

DR. THOMAS GROVER ORR, a physician of Kansas City, has been appointed head of the surgical department of the school of medicine at the University of Kansas.

DR. BASIL GRAVES, curator of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, has been appointed clinical lecturer and special instructor in charge of the department for microscopy of the living eye in the department of ophthalmology of the graduate school of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, for a period of three months from January 1, 1925.

DR. A. T. DE MOULPIED, of the British Dyestuffs Corporation, has been appointed professor of science at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in succession to Professor J. Young.

DR. ALFRED KUHN, professor of zoology at the University of Göttingen, has declined the offer of the professorship of zoology and comparative anatomy at Munich.

---

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### THERMOMETER SCALES

APROPOS of the discussion on thermometer scales it may be worth while to consider some points generally ignored. As far as the people at large are concerned practically everybody is familiar with the relations between the Fahrenheit scale and the temperatures, and it would be most difficult and confusing to them to make a change.

But apart from that, the ideal thermometric scale is far from the centigrade type, at least for those having to do with meteorological statistics. The centigrade is extremely defective in that its degrees are so large that exact work requires decimal fractions to be tabulated, and it has an arbitrary zero requiring plus and minus signs to indicate degrees of temperature. One reason why the Fahrenheit scale is better is that its degrees are so much smaller.

The ideal thermometer will have its scale running all one way, eliminating plus and minus signs, and its degree divisions small enough to require at most only one decimal point in tabulating fractions. The only instance I have come across in which these points are recognized is the scale invented by Louis De Lisle de la Croyère about the end of the 18th century, probably described in the *Journal of the Hydrographic Department of the Russian navy*, vol. VII, pp. 537-542, 1849 (which I have not seen), and used in the appendix to Krashenninikoff's "History of