

culture who pass a satisfactory examination, which shall consist of the preparation of a scientific thesis and a *viva voce* ordeal of not more than two hours.

THE "Craggs" research prize will be awarded by the London School of Tropical Medicine in October next to a past or present student of the school who during the year (October, 1905, to October, 1906) has made the most valuable contribution to tropical medicine. The competing essays must reach the medical tutor of the school on or before October 1.

PROF. G. S. BOULGER has accepted the post of honorary professor and external examiner for the diploma at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, in succession to the late Dr. W. Fream, and Mr. W. Hunting has accepted the position of honorary professor and examiner for the diploma of the same institution in succession to the late Sir G. Brown, C.B.

ACCORDING to *Science*, the General Education Board, endowed by Mr. J. D. Rockefeller with 2,000,000*l.*, has made the following appropriations to nine institutions on condition that the sums in question be augmented three times in value from other sources:—Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Ia., 10,000*l.*; Washburn College, Topeka, Kan., 5000*l.*; Tulane University, New Orleans, 15,000*l.*; Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C., 5000*l.*; Furman University, Greenville, S.C., 5000*l.*; Wake Forest College, N.C., 7500*l.*; Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., 5000*l.*; South-western University, Jackson, Tenn., 5000*l.*; and Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., 5000*l.*

THE number of students attending the twenty-one German universities during the summer semester just ended is given as 45,630 matriculated students and 4566 non-matriculated students, 665 of these being at Berlin University. Among the matriculated students there were in Freiburg, Heidelberg, Leipzig, Munich, and Tübingen taken together 182 women, whilst the number of non-matriculated students included 1536 women. The number of science students (including mathematics) at these universities, that is, apart from the technical high schools, is given as 6323, as against 6125 in the corresponding semester of 1905; the number of pharmaceutical students is stated to have been 1767, against 1481 in 1905.

PROF. RÖNTGEN having declined the offer of the physics chair at Berlin University in succession to the late Prof. Paul Drude, the direction of the physical institute has been temporarily placed in the hands of Prof. W. Nernst, the director of the neighbouring physical chemistry institute. The designation "Physikalisch-Chemisches Institut" was only recently granted to Prof. Nernst's institution, which had hitherto been known as the "II. Chemische Institut"; it may also be observed that the equipment of the institute has been extended on the electrical side by means of a grant of 10,000 marks, so that the various workplaces have easy access to direct current of voltages of 10, 110, and 220 volts, and a low-voltage alternating current for electric furnace work.

THE following appointments have recently been made:—Dr. Wilhelm Deecke, professor of mineralogy in the University of Greifswald, as successor to Prof. Steinmann in the University of Freiburg i. B.; Dr. Johannes Walther as ordinary professor of mineralogy in the University of Halle; M. R. A. Raiss as extraordinary professor of scientific photography in the Lucerne University; Dipl.-Ing. Johannes Galli, technical director of the Annen Steel Works, Ltd., in Westphalia, as successor to the late Prof. A. Ledebur in the professorship of metallurgy in the Mining School, Freiburg, Saxony; and Dr. Karl Hintze, professor of mineralogy in the University of Breslau, has been offered an appointment in the University of Bonn, in succession to Prof. Dr. Laspeyres, retired.

THE calendar of the Merchant Venturers' Technical College, Bristol, for the session 1906-7, contains an interesting section dealing with the attempts being made in Bristol to secure the cooperation of employers in the work of educating apprentices and artisans suitably. The plans which certain firms adopt to secure this object are enumerated. Some firms pay the fees of students attending classes relating to the industry in which they are engaged; they

also in some instances provide the necessary books and instruments, or they offer prizes for the best student in their employ. Other employers increase the wages of those of their servants who attend specified classes and pass the examination held at the end of the course. The time spent at evening classes is allowed to count in reduction of the working hours of apprentices by a third class of employer. Every plan which tends to bring home the importance of technical training to the manufacturers and their workmen deserves commendation, and it is to be hoped that the Bristol experiments will be tried in other large centres of industry.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, August 6.—M. H. Poincaré in the chair.—The iodomercurates of sodium and barium: A. **Duboin**. The author has isolated crystals of the double iodide of sodium and mercury, having the composition $2\text{NaI}, \text{HgI}_2, 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and of the corresponding barium compound, $\text{BaI}_2, \text{HgI}_2, 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The latter crystals were remarkable for their length, approaching 2 cm.—The borostannates of the alkaline earths: the reproduction of nordenskiöldine: L. **Ouvrard**. Calcium borostannate, possessing crystallographic characters identical with those of the natural mineral, was obtained by heating precipitated calcium borate with tin dioxide to a white heat in a slow current of hydrogen chloride.—The influence of the temperature of dehydration of alabaster on the setting of the plaster obtained: E. **Leduc** and Maurice **Pellet**.—The causes of the appearance of so-called anomalous forms in plants: P. **Vuillemin**.—Researches on the gaseous exchanges of a green plant developed in the light in the absence of carbonic acid, in a soil to which amides have been added: Jules **Lefèvre**. Under the above conditions it has been found that a green plant can develop, increasing its dry weight three times, without any oxygen being given off.—The action of the X-rays on the ovary of the dog: M. **Roulier**. Contrary to the results obtained with rabbits, atrophy of the ovary is very difficult to obtain, in spite of the production of serious lesions of the skin.—Experimental *nagana*. The variations in the number of the trypanosomes in the blood of the dog. The intravascular trypanolysis and trypanolytic power of the serum: A. **Rodet** and G. **Vallet**.

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