

purpose of studying similar undertakings in those countries.

PROMOTIONS to associate professorships in the faculties of the University of Chicago are announced as follows: Georges Van Biesbroeck and Storrs B. Barrett, in astronomy; Edward S. Robinson and Forrest A. Kingsbury, in psychology; Arthur J. Dempster, in physics; Warder C. Allee, in zoology; Esmond R. Long, in pathology; Emery T. Filbey and Guy T. Buswell, in the College of Education.

MR. G. C. STEWARD, fellow of Gonville and Caius College, has been appointed fellow and lecturer in mathematics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

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## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### PROPOSALS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE WISENT

IT seems to be unfortunately only too true, occasional contrary reports notwithstanding, that the European bison or wisent (*Bos bonasus* L., *Bison europaeus* Ow.) of which prior to the great war about 700 lived in the Lithuanian forest of Bjeloviesh, near Grodno, has been exterminated there. The fate of the wisents that lived in northwestern Caucasia is unknown, but in all probability this herd no longer exists and of the herd formerly living in the estates of Prince Pless, Upper Silesia, only three remain. Thus, when summed up, no herd exists any longer, only some fifty head, which are scattered widely in zoological gardens or preserves.

Dr. Kurt Priemel, director of the Municipal Zoological Garden in Frankfurt and an expert on the matter, suggests that by a systematic cooperation of all persons interested the wisent may be permanently saved or at least preserved for many a year to come. Dr. Priemel proposes that the methods so successfully pursued by the American Bison Society be applied to preserve the wisent. To do this, however, the cooperation of all interests, German and foreign, is indispensable; only thus can systematic breeding be carried out, the necessary funds raised and general interest for the plan gained. It is proposed, therefore, to found a Society for the Preservation of the Wisent. Statistical data have been made up and a card catalogue arranged in which information regarding all the known living wisents has been compiled. The most important problem for the new society, when formed, will be to endeavor to increase the number of animals by systematic breeding, an interchange of individuals from various sources being also considered. As it is, with one exception, all the available stock derive from the Bjeloviesh herd. This exception is a bull of the Caucasus breed, which has always

played an important part in reproducing the race and will continue to do so, as long as possible. The animal was presented to Karl Hagenbeck in 1907 by the Czar.

Should systematic breeding produce satisfactory results, and successful experience of many zoological gardens tend to encourage this hope, in twelve to fifteen years small herds of wisents may be turned loose in extensive preserves. These preserves should offer, as far as possible, variegated topography, climate and forest formations. A beginning has been made by Count Arnim-Boitzenburg, of Boitzenburg-Uckermark, province of Brandenburg, who has introduced the wisent herd formerly owned by Hagenbeck upon his estates. It is to be hoped that the dangers of inbreeding may be obviated and a healthy development assured.

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## THE AMERICAN EDUCATOR AND SCIENTIST

THE title-page of the recently issued "The American Educator and Scientist, a Vocational Blue Book," bears the slogan: "Representation a Criterion of Distinction." After glancing through the text one is tempted to wonder what is the criterion of representation. Among the many who are not "represented" are the president of Harvard University and the president of the National Academy of Sciences.

Nothing is specified regarding the life work of James Furman Kemp except that he is manager of the New York Botanical Garden. Charles Whitman Cross is given all the credit for authorship of *Quantitative Classification of Ingenious Rocks*, although in the next entry but one Whitman Cross is described as author of *Quantitative Classification of Ingenious Rocks*.

This work is one of twelve blue books issued annually by the same publishers. The series includes *The American Elite and Sociologist*. The price of each volume is \$10.

OMISSUS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Grundzüge der Paläontologie*, II Abt., Vertebrata.

By K. A. VON ZITTEL. Neuarbeitet von F. Broili und Max Schlosser. R. Oldenbourg, München u. Berlin. 4<sup>e</sup> Auflage, 1923.

THE new edition of this classic text-book will be a great boon to all workers and teachers in vertebrate paleontology. There are unfortunately no compre-

# Science

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