

1887, and later chemist, to the Wisconsin Agricultural Experimental Station. In 1906 he became professor of agricultural chemistry in the University, a post which he held until 1913, when he went to the University of California as professor of animal nutrition. Dr. Woll issued a number of valuable reports and bulletins on dairy matters and stock feeding while he was in charge of the research stations, and wrote, among other works, "A Book on Silage," "Testing Milk and its Products," and "Productive Feeding of Farm Animals," all of which have passed through several editions. According to *Science*, it was due mainly to Dr. Woll's efforts that the cow-testing associations, of so much importance to the dairy industry of California, have been developed and placed on a permanent basis.

MR. F. E. WESTON, the late head of the Chemistry Department of the Regent Street Polytechnic, died on January 4 after a long illness, and some account of his life and work appears in the *Chemical Age* of

January 20. His death will be regretted by large numbers of chemists who came under his influence. Mr. Weston was the author of some sound and popular text-books, and in addition to his activities as a teacher he made several original investigations.

WE regret to announce the deaths of: Prof. Wilhelm Konrad von Röntgen, at the age of seventy-seven years; Mr. Bernard Bosanquet, on February 8, in his seventy-fifth year; and Dr. A. H. Fison, lecturer on physics at Guy's Hospital, London, and secretary to the Gilchrist Educational Trust, on February 5, at the age of sixty-five years.

THE *Chemiker Zeitung* of January 18 reports the death on December 6 of Prof. Luigi Marino-Zuco, of the Applied Chemistry Department of the Royal School of Engineers, Pisa.

Current Topics and Events.

THE recent decision of the Commissioners of Customs to enforce payment of the entertainment tax by the Committee of the West Highland Museum at Fort William in respect of an exhibition of local objects meets with some caustic comment in the February number of the *Museums Journal*. It is pointed out that the official regulations contemplate the issue of certificates of exemption for "entertainments" of this nature, and that the Board of Education encourages such temporary local exhibitions as the best means of securing the establishment of permanent provincial museums. Thus does one Government Department hinder the efforts of the other; and thus is constructed another argument for a properly thought-out State policy towards museums.

IN view of the withdrawal of oversea contributions to the Imperial Institute, a committee under the chairmanship of the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore and including the High Commissioners of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and representatives of the Board of Trade, the Colonial Office, the Treasury, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce, has been appointed to investigate the position of the Institute. Mr. E. B. Boyd of the Colonial Office is acting as secretary to the committee. The terms of reference include a consideration of what functions now carried out by the Institute are considered essential and whether they should be transferred to other research organisations. Further, the committee has to consider to what extent the intentions of the founders of the Institute are being carried out and to suggest improvements which may be financially possible should it be recommended that the Institute continue on its existing basis. To us it seems astonishing that, as the Institute is largely concerned with the scientific study of the natural resources of the Empire, the committee does not include representatives of science, who alone are able to understand the significance and value of research aspects of the Institute's work.

THE General Electric Co. of America has had for several years a testing transformer which can produce a potential difference of a million volts between its terminals. We understand also that Prof. Millikan will be able to experiment with a million volts at his new laboratory at Pasadena. According to *La Nature* of January 20, the Compagnie Générale d'Électro-Céramique has decided to instal a battery of transformers in its test-room at Ivry which will give a pressure of a million volts for measuring the electric strength of insulating materials. With these high pressures it is possible to make commercial tests on insulators when arranged in series, as they are on high voltage transmission lines. The Americans have also used them for testing the efficiency of lightning safety devices, and for studying the phenomena which occur when a very high voltage discharge takes place on a network.

To any one concerned with public health, and more especially to those who have witnessed the ravages of small-pox among natives in our overseas possessions and the benefits conferred by vaccination, the exhibit of pictures and relics connected with Edward Jenner now on view at the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, 54A Wigmore Street, W., cannot fail to be of interest. Here are shown many mementoes of this illustrious benefactor of mankind; an English country doctor, blessed with unusual powers of observation and animated by a scientific spirit, whose work, despite the efforts of cranks and detractors, will stand for all time. In addition to the large number of interesting objects forming part of the Wellcome Museum, special loan exhibits are displayed. Among them is the original pencil drawing of Jenner from life executed by Thomas Drayton, while there are many rare books and the original water-colour drawings of Kirtland showing the results of vaccination and variolation from day to day. Of the lancets Jenner used there are two with ivory points similar to those on which he sent dried lymph to India. The