NEWS AND NOTES

At Cold Spring Harbor the Eugenics Record Office was opened October 1, 1910. This office is under the general direction of Dr. C.

Eugenics Section. B. Davenport, secretary of the section, and under the immediate superintendence of Professor H. H. Laughlin. An office for correspondence has been fitted up and a fireproof vault, 14 by 18 feet, is being constructed. At present the Record Office maintains six workers in the field studying the pedigrees of families either in connection with or independent of institutions for defectives. These are Miss Danielson, Miss Saidee C. Devitt, Mrs. Dranga-Graebe, Miss A. B. Eaton, Dr. A. H. Estabrook, and Miss Helen Reeves. The data obtained by these field workers and, through the courtesy of the directors of the institutions at Vineland (Professor E. R. Johnstone) and at Skillman (Dr. David F. Weeks), New Jersey, by other field workers not supported by the Record Office are sent to that office to form part of a universal heredity record that will be of value for the study of defects and their transmission through successive generations.

The aid of the Record Office is also sought by institutions which wish to secure field workers. It has already supplied one institution, and part of its function is to train field workers to meet the demand. It is anticipated that, in the near future, all of the larger institutions for defectives will regard it as part of their work to maintain a field worker who shall study family histories at the homes of the patients.

Members of the committees of the Eugenics Section, together with invited friends, met at the New Jersey State Village of Epileptics at Skillman, N. J., on Friday, October 14, 1910, at

Meeting of the Eugenics Section. the invitation of the superintendent, Dr. David F. Weeks, and upon call of the secretary of the section. The purpose of the meeting was to give the field workers of the Eugenics Record Office and those employed by the other institutions an opportunity to get together with those who are directing the field

studies and to compare notes over common difficulties and methods. Actually the meeting had a far wider scope, both because well-known alienists, physicians, psychologists and heads of institutions from different parts of the United States were present and because several scientific papers of importance were read. Since Dr. David Starr Jordan, chairman of the section, who had just arrived in New York from Europe, could not be present, there was chosen as chairman of the meeting Mr. Bleecker van Wagenen, a layman well known for his devotion to the work of public institutions in New Jersey. Professor E. R. Johnstone, superintendent of the Training School at Vineland, was chosen secretary. Among the others present were Dr. George B. Wright, New Jersey Commissioner of Charities and Correction Trenton; Dr. Henry A. Cotton, superintendent of the New Jersey State Hospital at Trenton; Dr. Everett Flood, superintendent, Monson State Hospital for Epileptics, Palmer, Mass.; Dr. William T. Shanahan, superintendent, Craig Colony for Epileptics, Sonycia, N. Y.; Surgeon George Stoner, U. S. N., in charge of the immigrant inspection service at Ellis Island; Dr. H. H. Goddard of Vineland, N. J., secretary of the A. B. A. Committee on Feeble-Minded; Dr. A. J. Rosanoff, Kings Park, N. Y., Hospital for the Insane; Dr. Madeleine A. Hollowell, superintendent, Institution for Feeble-Minded Women, at Vineland; Dr. P. F. Lange, Institution for Feeble-Minded, Glenwood, Iowa; Ada E. Sheffield, Massachusetts State Board of Charities; Dr. H. G. Schlapp, New York City; F. S. Hammond, State Hospital, Trenton; Mrs. Elizabeth V. H. Mansell, N. F. Dullard, C. Cromwell of the State Home for Girls, Trenton; Benjamin H. Crosby, New Jersey Reformatory, Rahway; Professor H. H. Laughlin, superintendent of the Eugenics Record Office, Cold Spring Harbor, and Helen T. Reeves and Saidee C. Devitt of the same office; Mrs. Caroline B. Alexander, Bernardsville, N. J.; Catherine F. Bell, Helen F. Hill, Elizabeth Kite, Maude W. Moore, Jane Griffiths of Vineland, N. J., and William H. Schultz, Dr. H. E. Diers, Dr. W. C. Smith, Dr. C. A. Mallon, Prof. J. E. W. Wallin, and Mrs. Woodward of the New Jersey State Village.

After invocation and address of welcome by Dr. George B. Wright, introduced by Dr. Weeks, the following program was carried out:

(1) Demonstration of the Binet-Simon test for mental grading, by Dr. H. H. Goddard and assistant. This demonstrated the value

of this test for determining whether, to what extent, and in what way a person is below (or above) the normal for his age.

(2) Inheritance of Insanity; abstract of a paper by Gertrude L. Cannon and Dr. A. J. Rosanoff, given by Dr. Rosanoff. This showed that (excluding certain types) two insane parents will have only insane offspring and that normal parents, both of whom belong to insane strains, will, in the long run, have one-quarter of their offspring defective.

(3) Inheritance of Epilepsy, by Drs. David F. Weeks and C. B. Davenport, based on studies made on the ancestry of epileptic patients at Skillman, and showing that epilepsy rarely, if ever, arises in families without trace of the defect even if the parents are normal. In most cases, if not all, a mental weakness may be discovered on both sides.

(4) Inheritance of Feeble-Mindedness, by Professor E. R. Johnstone and Dr. H. H. Goddard, of the Vineland School. This was a report on studies made at their institution into the ancestry of the feeble-minded. These studies have been carried on for nearly two years, and in one case a pedigree comprising more than 600 individuals has been obtained, the parents of a large proportion of whom—nearly one-half—are defective. There is good reason to suppose that this collection is not an exceptional case, and needs no comment, even as an economic proposition, as to why defectives should have at least custodial care for life and be restrained from passing on their condition, whether mental, moral, or physical.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Weeks an opportunity was offered to study the workings of the New Jersey Village for Epileptics, which is considered a model institution of its kind. Special tours of investigation were arranged and conducted personally by Doctor Weeks, entirely covering the 800-acre plant. One of the most enjoyable features was the concert furnished by the school band, which is the only one in the world entirely composed of epileptics, and which, although it has only been in existence for seven months, rendered a program requiring accurate knowledge and careful training.

On Friday evening a session was held for the purpose of arriving at standards for field workers. A system of nomenclature was adopted, which will be reported on separately. This was followed by a statement of experiences from field workers. The meeting lasted until late and was followed by an informal gathering at the "Bungalow," so

that it was early morning before the company broke up at the dormitory.

C. B. DAVENPORT, *Secretary*.

The Fourth International Genetic Conference will be held in Paris, September 18 to 23, 1911, and it is to be hoped that America will show its interest in this world's question by being represented in large numbers outside of the official representation of the American Breeders Association. Mr. Philip L. de Vilmorin in a letter of recent date writes regarding this:

**The Fourth
International
Genetic Conference.**

The date of the next conference was first to be in May or June of next year. But when many "genetists" met in Cambridge last year for the Darwin celebration, the question was again discussed and we agreed upon the end of September to suit our American friends, because, of course, those interested in genetics, and especially in plant breeding, cannot easily leave America before August and must be back in October.

I know how much interest the American scientists and breeders have taken in genetics and in the practical points of Mendel's law. The breeding of plants, cattle, poultry, dogs, and all kinds of animals has profited by the recent discussion, made for a good part by Americans, and I hope that you will point out the facts to all the members of the American Breeders Association and induce them to come to our meeting, where they will meet prominent men from all over the world and where the scientists will gather to discuss the profound riddles of heredity, and where the practical breeders may find a light to help them in their work.

Mr. Wm. P. Rich, secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and Mr. A. W. Latham, secretary of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, have very kindly loaned the half-tones of the portraits respectively of Mr. E. W. Bull and Mr. Peter M. Gideon, appearing in this issue of the *American Breeders Magazine*. The portrait of Prof. J. L. Budd was prepared from a photograph kindly loaned by the family. The editors are greatly indebted to the above named for their cooperation.

Acknowledgment.