

## NOTES AND NEWS.

THE knowledge and appreciation of our educational institutions by European scholars are largely on the increase. M. Buisson, who came to this country as a French commissioner to the New Orleans exposition, made a special study of our advanced educational institutions, and is now contributing a series of articles on the subject to the *Revue internationale de l'enseignement*. The first of these has already appeared, and, after some introductory paragraphs, describes Columbia and Harvard colleges. M. Buisson has grasped clearly the nature and functions of the board of regents in New York state, and makes plain the relation sustained by that body to the various colleges and academies of the state. He was particularly impressed with Columbia's great library, and frankly says that it seems to him 'the ideal of what a university library should be,' not because of the number of its volumes, but because of its scope and organization. M. Buisson describes with great minuteness of detail the working of the library, and recommends it to the consideration of those having in charge the re-organization of the library of the University of Paris.

— Below is given the standard time-table for high schools for girls in Germany, drawn up by the commission appointed by the minister of instruction. It will shortly be adopted throughout Germany. The figures in the various columns represent hours per week.

Subjects.	Grade IX.	Grade VIII.	Grade VII.	Grade VI.	Grade V.	Grade IV.	Grade III.	Grade II.	Grade I.
Religious instruction .....	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
German .....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
French .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
English .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arithmetic .....	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
History .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Geography .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Physics and physi-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ography .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singing .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writing .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drawing .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gymnastics .....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Needlework .....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

— Dr. Schliemann, after a fruitless journey to Crete, has returned to Athens. Before leaving Constantinople, he was informed by the Turkish authorities that he must make such terms with the Cretans as he found possible, but that he must in any case pay down £1,000 as a guaranty that he would take nothing away from such excavations as he might make. The conditions under which he had formerly excavated in the Troad, namely, that he should have all the duplicate ob-

jects exhumed, were considered far from lenient, inasmuch as real duplicates very rarely occur. Taking advantage of the situation, the owners of the ground that he desired in Crete demanded £4,000 for it, and insisted upon his including in the purchase more land than he really wanted. So Dr. Schliemann came away without having dug his spade into the ground, though he saw, peeping out from the hill he desired to excavate, a huge building; but whether it was a megarm or a temple he could not tell.

— The professor of archeology at the University of Berlin, Dr. Furtwängler, has arrived at Olympia to arrange the objects which have been claimed by Greece from the excavations now concluded, in a large museum built on the spot by a patriotic Greek for their reception. He is also examining the various objects anew for the large work that is being prepared on Olympia, the German professor having been himself formerly one of the directors of the excavations.

— The first meeting of "the international congress having for its object technical, commercial, and industrial training," met at Bordeaux a few weeks since. We see no notice of any delegate from the United States being present. The conference brought clearly into view two points: 1°, the encouragement there is in the recognition of the fact that England, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Belgium, as well as other countries and dependencies, have common ends in view in commercial and industrial education; and, 2°, that while this first international congress was merely tentative, yet it has paved the way for future congresses to come to a surer agreement regarding principles, and to develop substantial unanimity in details. In addition to the valuable papers that were read, debates and discussions were held daily during the session of the congress, and it is believed that they contributed to give the nations of Europe a clearer and sounder knowledge of the aims and methods of technical education.

— The lord-almoner's professorship of Arabic at Cambridge university, made vacant by the resignation of Dr. Robertson Smith, the newly elected university librarian, who has held the post since Prof. Edward H. Palmer was murdered by the Arabs, has been conferred on Hon. Ion Grant Neville Keith-Falconer, M.A., of Trinity college. The new professor is the second son of the late Earl of Kintore, and, though but thirty years of age, he is very learned in the oriental languages and literature.

— It is remarked in England that the American historians are very popular there. Almost simultaneously, new editions of Prescott and of Park-

man have been issued by London publishers. "Prescott has a well-established reputation, and the brilliancy of Mr. Parkman's narratives will assuredly make him a classical historian in England as well as in America."

— James M. Cattell, Ph.D., son of ex-President Cattell of Lafayette college, has recently been elected lecturer on psycho-physics at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Cattell has been pursuing his researches for some time past in Professor Wundt's laboratory at Leipzig, and has formulated his results in articles which have been published in *Philosophische studien* and in *Mind*.

— The new volume of Trübner's 'English and foreign philosophical library' is 'Life and works of Giordano Bruno.' It is now ready.

— Students of psychology and of philosophy generally, will be glad to know that Dr. Ferrier's work on 'The functions of the brain' has been issued in a new edition. This new edition is essentially a new book, since it has been almost entirely rewritten, and now embraces the results of the author's latest investigations, as well as a critical survey of the more important physiological and pathological researches on the functions of the brain that have been published during the last decade. The chapters on the structures of the nerve-centres and the functions of the spinal cord have been enlarged to such an extent that the book is now virtually a complete treatise on the central nervous system.

— Volume viii. of Leslie Stephen's 'Dictionary of national biography,' including names from Burton to Cantwell, has been published. The Bruces, Butlers, Campbells, Burns, Burke, Byron, Mrs. Browning, Buckle, Caedmon, Cairns, and Cairnes are among the most prominent subjects treated. Volume ix. may be expected in January.

— Investigations made by the editor of the *Academy* in several hundred schools in every state in the union give the following result as to the methods of Latin pronunciation in use. Of the institutions, 6 per cent use the continental system, 46½ per cent the Roman, and 47½ per cent the English. Some of these schools, however, are very large, others quite small; so that a comparison of the number of students trained in each method seems preferable. Such comparison shows 2 per cent using the continental, 46½ the English, and 51½ the Roman.

— A recent presidential decree in France regulates the instruction in gymnastics in the *lycées* and colleges for girls. The instruction must be given by female teachers, who must have received a certificate of aptitude from the proper authori-

ties. Such teachers are to receive from 1,200 to 2,000 francs per year each, and may be required to teach sixteen hours a week. They must teach at least twelve hours a week.

— The English association for the improvement of geometrical teaching, says *Nature* of Sept. 30, has revised its 'Syllabus of elementary geometrical conics,' and is about to publish the same, with three figures lettered in accordance with the enunciations of the Syllabus. The work will be interleaved to allow of teachers and students supplying their own proofs, and will, it is hoped, appear in November. Messrs. Swan Sonnenschein are the publishers.

— The Bombay government, according to *Nature* of Sept. 30, has issued a long resolution on the subject of technical education, which is one of special importance to India. The resolution lays down the outlines of the scheme which it favors under three heads,—agriculture, art, and mechanical industries. It proposes that the College of science at Poonah shall be a central institution for the teaching of higher agriculture, and that local classes and schools shall be established throughout the province under the supervision of district officers and of the educational department. The Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy school of art in Bombay is to be the centre of government efforts for the purpose of art-teaching, and a report is called for as to the propriety of obtaining additional teaching. The question whether a technological institute for mechanical industries should be established is discussed at some length, and the government expresses the opinion that the time for doing so has not yet come. Meanwhile it is suggested that the committee of the Ripon memorial fund should form itself into an association for promoting technical education in Bombay City, the government promising to give it the utmost possible aid. The main dependence of other parts of the province must be upon the high schools for elementary science, and upon such institutions as may be started by means of local efforts. The resolution concludes by saying that the scheme is not academic, but that it is meant to enhance the well-being of the people at large by giving increased employment to labor and capital, and by cementing harmonious relations between them.

— Dr. R. G. Eccles read a paper before the pathological society of Brooklyn recently, in which he gave the results of a long series of experiments, extending over nine months, on the value of the different pepsines in the market, and in which he showed that some of the pepsine furnished by reputable manufacturers was almost valueless, and yet sold for a price considerably

above that of other dealers whose product was very active in the conversion of albuminoids into peptone. His experiments also included the retarding effect on digestion of many of the remedies which physicians prescribe to be taken at meal-time.

—Colonel Majendie, the English inspector of explosives, is now in this country, studying the methods here adopted for the regulation of the storage and sale of inflammable materials. During his stay he will visit the oil-regions of Pennsylvania and examine the oil-wells.

—As a supplement to the last number of the *Rivista di filosofia scientifica*, is issued an interesting prospectus of a new *Rivista pedagogica Italiana*, to be issued Nov. 1, under the direction of Prof. Francesco Veniali, general inspector for the minister of public instruction. Each issue will contain several articles on theoretical and applied pedagogics, a *résumé* of the progress of educational thought and activity in Italy and throughout the world, correspondence, and the full text of all official documents on education. Professor Veniali has secured as co-operators the principal professor of pedagogics in Italy, the chief government inspectors of schools, and the directors and professors of the larger normal schools. There is every reason to suppose that the new *Rivista* will be a most valuable acquisition to educational literature.

—The new rules promulgated by the educational department in France present several changes. Women are admitted as teachers at the age of seventeen, but men not until eighteen. A very important clause provides that in public schools of every description all instruction is to be given exclusively by laymen. This takes from the clergy their last hold on elementary education, for hitherto they have had the right to nominate in the schools a certain number of teachers who were not subject to the regulations under which the government teachers worked. These teachers were under the direct control, not of the minister of education, but of the superior of the religious society by whom they were appointed. In the new rules, too, the regulations respecting the qualifications of teachers, both public and private, have been made more stringent.

—The committee of the school museum at Berlin proposes to celebrate in 1890 the centenary of the birth of Diesterweg by founding a Diesterweg pedagogical museum.

—The first volume of the *Deutsche encyclopädie, ein neues universal-lexicon für alle gebiete des wissens*, has been published by Grunow of Leipzig. It comprises ten hundred and seventy pages

devoted to topics whose names begin with the letter A.

—The *English historical review* for October contains an erudite and valuable article on the 'Origines of the University of Paris,' by Rev. H. Rashdall.

—The *London Journal of education* draws the following lessons from Mr. Matthew Arnold's recent report on education on the continent of Europe: 1. All teachers must be trained, no more acting certificates must be granted, and the college course must be extended to at least four years. 2. The demoralizing system of annual grants, dependent mainly on individual papers in the three R's, must be abolished. If the fixed capitation grant were doubled, and the remainder assigned by general merit, we should have a workable but not a perfect system. 3. The school-years must be extended. At present, in England, school-life ends, on an average, at eleven years of age: on the continent it ends at fourteen. 4. Schools must be graded.

—The first report of the Royal commission (English) to inquire into the working of the elementary education act is a large folio of 543 pages, and contains 13,684 questions and answers, in addition to voluminous appendices.

—The law by which it is forbidden in Germany to give instruction in any subject without a proper certificate or other qualification, has lately been extended to cover the case of private teachers.

—Mr. Albert V. Dicey and Mr. Harold B. Dixon have been elected fellows of Balliol college, Oxford. Mr. Dicey is Vinerian professor of English law and a well-known writer, and Mr. Dixon is lecturer on physics.

—The recent election for rector of Edinburgh university resulted in the choice of Lord Iddesleigh over Sir Lyon Playfair.

—Rev. Dr. Montagu Butler, lately head master of Harrow school, has been appointed master of Trinity college, Cambridge, in succession to the late Dr. Thompson. This position is one of the most eminent in England, and is in the immediate gift of the crown. The income is £2,670 per year.

—The *Deutsche geographische blätter* of Bremen publishes several original papers on the natives of North America. Mr. Henry T. Allen reports on the Atnatánas, or Indians of the Copper River, who, to the number of 366, occupy a territory of 25,000 square miles; Mr. Charles N. Bell of Winnipeg deals with the Ojibeways in north-western Canada; and Dr. H. Rink summarizes the information recently collected by Danish travellers respecting the Eskimo of eastern Greenland.

— Volume xxi. of the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica,' which has just been issued, contains several distinctively philosophical articles. They are 'Rousseau,' by George Saintsbury; 'Scepticism,' by Andrew Seth; 'Schelling,' by Professor Adamson; 'Schleiermacher,' by Rev. J. F. Smith; 'Scholasticism,' by Andrew Seth; and 'Schopenhauer,' by Prof. William Wallace.

— Every once in a while some new hint is dropped concerning the forthcoming biography of Darwin by his son. The last is that Professor Huxley will contribute a chapter, and that the book will bear strong testimony to the influence exercised by Sir Charles Lyell over Darwin.

— Professor Tyndall's stay in Switzerland has greatly benefited his health, and he now intends to deliver the Christmas lectures at the Royal institution in London himself.

— Dr. Köhler has been succeeded as director of the German school at Athens by Dr. Peters, late professor of archeology at the University of Prague.

— The programme of the Aristotelian society of London for the winter is unusually interesting. Mr. Shadworth Hodgson opened the year's work with an address on the re-organization of philosophy. Other papers will treat of Malebranche, Leibnitz, Lotze, T. H. Green, Hegel's 'Philosophie des rechts,' and the Augustinian philosophy. Dr. Cattell of Leipzig will give an account of some recent psycho-physical researches. The ancient distinction of logic, physic, and ethic, the relation of language to thought, the distinction of fact and right, and the theory of motion, will be treated by other members of the society; and the session will be closed by Dr. Bain, 'On the ultimate questions of philosophy.'

— A new encyclopaedia of education is being prepared in England under the editorship of Mr. A. Sonnenschein and Rev. E. D. Price.

— Capt. R. L. Pythian, U.S.N., was ordered to duty on Nov. 14, as superintendent of the naval observatory at Washington. Commander A. D. Brown, who has been acting as superintendent, will continue on duty at the observatory as assistant superintendent.

— Herbert H. Smith, who has been collecting natural history specimens in South America for several years, left Rio de Janeiro for this country over a month ago upon a sailing-vessel. He brings with him enormous collections.

— The number of those who are now invalids as the result of the war is said to be 265,854, the total number of soldiers having been about one million and a quarter.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### The swindler at work again.

I ENCLOSE for the benefit of others a letter from a swindler in the west, addressed to me, over the very well forged signature of Charles D. Walcott, U. S. N. M. (national museum at Washington), dated simply 'Cook co. Normal, Nov. 7, 1886.' Chicago is in Cook county, Ill. It requested the immediate despatch of a set of geological reports to Prof. George Wells Litz, of the Cook county (Ill.) normal school, and his colleague, Professor Parker.

Cook co. Normal, Nov. 7, 1886.

Prof. JOHN P. LESLEY.

Dear Sir,— Will you kindly send to Prof. George Wells Litz, of the Cook county (Ill.) normal school, a complete set of the reports of the second geological survey of Pennsylvania. I am indebted to him, and to his colleague Professor Parker, for a most delightful Sunday, and wish to place him and his friend in the way of getting literature at present inaccessible to them.

An early compliance with this request will be considered a great favor, and one to be soon repaid by your friend, CHARLES D. WALCOTT, U.S.N.M.

Mr. Walcott informs me by letter, after seeing the above letter, that he had tried to trace the rascal, but thus far without success. The fellow has obtained, under various false pretences, quantities of specimens, books, and sometimes money, from eastern geologists.

J. P. LESLEY.

### Effect of electric light on plant-growth.

"The light from an electric-lamp tower in Davenport, Io., falls full upon a flower-garden about one hundred feet away; and during the past summer the owner has observed that lilies which have usually bloomed only in the day have opened in the night, and that morning-glories have unclosed their blossoms as soon as the electric light fell on them."

The above item, which originally appeared in the *Democrat* of this city, and has gone the rounds of the press, has a substantial basis of fact. The 'Jenney' system of electric lighting was introduced into this city early this past spring, and across the street from the residence of Mr. Henry W. Kerker is situated one of its towers. This tower is 125 feet high, and contains five arc lights, each of 2,000 candle-power. During the past summer, Mr. Kerker's attention was attracted to the singular effect these lights produced upon some day-lilies blooming in his garden. These flowers closed as night came on, but, as soon as the electric lamps were started up, they re-opened, and while the lights were in operation continued in full bloom. As the street is about 80 feet wide, the lights were distant some 200 feet from the flowers. Other similar observations here are reported, but, as they are less accurately verified, I pass them for the present without special mention.

CHAS. E. PUTNAM.

Davenport, Io., Nov. 19.

### Milk-sickness.

This disease seems to have received but little attention from the medical fraternity, probably on account of the supposition that its ravages are circumscribed to the area within the confines of its origination; yet it is presumed that such is not the