

what he learned in those countries to the improvement of historical teaching in his own neighborhood. The historical courses at both the Dutch and the Belgian universities are characterized as quite meagre, the subject not having been accorded due prominence by the authorities. The teaching is mainly what M. Frédéricq calls theoretical, the object being to impart historical information without any attempt at original investigation. M. Frédéricq has perhaps too low an opinion of such teaching, and lays almost the whole stress of his remarks on the need of practical

courses for the study of history in its sources. Some of the Belgian professors, including the author himself, have established volunteer courses of this kind; but something more effective and permanent is, in his opinion, necessary to place the study on a satisfactory basis. In Holland the state of things seems to be rather worse than in Belgium, though at the University of Amsterdam there is an important course in political geography, under the guidance of M. Kan, which extends over a period of three years.

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CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

Natural Science Association of Staten Island.

Sept. 11.—Charles W. Leng, Additions to Local Lists of Coleoptera; Joseph C. Thompson, Eggs of the Snapping-Turtle; H. Baruth presented a large block of sandstone containing casts of spirifers.

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