

DR. WILLIAM C. JARVIS, professor of diseases of the throat at the University of New York, died at Willett's Point on July 30th.

DANIEL G. HATCH, of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, died on August 1st.

PROFESSOR G. F. W. SPÖRER, astronomer in the astrophysical observatory at Potsdam, died on July 7th at the age of 73, and Dr. Josef Loschmidt, professor of physics in Vienna, died on July 8th at the age of 74.

PROFESSOR HEINRICH VON SYBEL, the historian, died at Marburg on August 1st at the age of 78 years.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Berlin correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* states that there are an unusually large number of American students now studying in Germany. 109 Americans are matriculated in the University of Berlin, and there are a large number of others pursuing special studies in clinics and other institutions. The total number of American students in the German universities is estimated at 340; it is said that in some of the laboratories nearly half the research work is being done by American students. The fact that the Summer Semester in Germany continues in session until the first of August gives American students an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with German university life and methods without interrupting their academic course at home.

The number of American students studying in Germany far exceeds the number studying in France. This is partly owing to the fact that the German university is more liberal in the admission of foreign students and in the conferring of degrees. A meeting has, however, recently been held at the Sorbonne, under the presidency of M. Gréard, with a view to making modifica-

tions in the rules governing the conferment of academic degrees and other regulations, so that more foreign students may be attracted to Paris.

WE learn from the *Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau* that Dr. Fr. Richart, *Privat Do-cent* in Bonn, has been elected full professor of physics in the University of Greifswald, as successor to Professor Overbeck. Dr. O. Wiener has been called to the chair of physics in the University of Giessen. Dr. H. Lenk has been made assistant professor of geology in the University of Leipzig, and Dr. Stäckel, of Halle, assistant professor of mathematics in the University of Königs-berg.

THE University of Edinburgh has conferred the degree of LL.D. upon Dr. S. Weir Mitchell.

THE Princeton preparatory school, of which Professor John B. Fine is head master, has been purchased by a number of the alumni of Princeton College and incorporated under the laws of New Jersey.

It is reported by cable from Dublin that it is probable that the government will shortly bring forward a plan to establish and endow a Catholic university in Ireland.

THE will of the late Thomas O. P. Burnham gives nearly \$400,000 to charitable and public purposes, including \$20,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and \$10,000 to Tufts College. The will of the late Dr. Edward Spalding gives \$5,000 to Dartmouth College; \$3,000 has reverted to Dartmouth College as provided for in the will of the late Sophronia C. Thompson.

A COMMITTEE from the Legislature of the State of Kansas finds that nearly \$200,000 of the State School Fund has been lost through mismanagement. The fund now amounts to between six and seven million dollars.

THE State Department has received a report from the consul at Stuttgart, in which

he attributes the extension of the German export trade to the Stuttgart Geographical Society and similar institutions.

THE University of Minnesota at its commencement of the current year conferred 294 degrees as follows: Science, Literature and the Arts, B. A., 28; B. S., 32; B. L., 34; M. A., 3; M. S., 6; Ph. D., 1. Engineering, Metallurgy and the Mechanic Arts, B. C. E., 4; B. M. E., 3; B. E. E., 7; B. Min. E., 1; Min. E., 1. Agriculture, 2. Law, LL. B., 88; LL. M., 2. Medicine and Surgery, M. D., 53. Homeop. Medicine and Surgery, M. D., 5. Dentistry, D. D. M., 12. Pharmacy, Phm. D., 12.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHAT IS 'HIGH WORK'?

THE students of the physiology and morphology of plants are fond of saying that these features of plant life stand for higher work than the older systematic treatment of botanical objects. My attention is called to this attitude of mind at this time by Professor Trelease's remark (although he himself does not subscribe to the sentiment) in *SCIENCE* for July 5th, in reviewing Mr. Small's excellent monograph of *Polygonum*, that "it is generally believed that the classification and naming of plants is a less advanced branch of botanical investigation than the study of their morphology, development and physiology." I must strenuously object to a comparison of natural objects in terms which are subjective to the student. There is no higher or lower in the forms of life, or in the problems which center about them. Every item in the material universe is worthy the attention of the best mind for a lifetime, and it is bigotry for one student to measure other subjects by the standard of his own specialty. 'High work' is entirely a subjective matter, and is not a quality of the object studied. One man may do 'higher' or 'more advanced' work

studying road dust than another may in studying star dust.

L. H. BAILEY.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

The Female Offender. CÆSAR LOMBROSO and WILLIAM FERRERO. With an introduction by W. DOUGLAS MORRISON. Illustrated. The Criminology Series. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1895. 8°. Pl. 313.

The present work of Lombroso has an introduction by Mr. Douglas Morrison, a perusal of which should disarm all criticism against the body of the work which follows, for Mr. Morrison assures us that the essential aim of Lombroso's work here is to show the public that there are different kinds of criminals and that different kinds of punishments should be provided for them. In other words, the book is a contribution both to penology and to philanthropy. It is encouraging at this time to hear such words of kindness regarding the Italian criminologist. Largely, perhaps, through the instrumentality of Dr. Nordau's extravagances, the literary and artistic public have come to regard Lombroso with great suspicion. The attitude, in fact, toward this philosopher reminds us very much of the attitude of the religious world toward Darwin some years ago. Nothing that that eminent scientist produced was then received without questioning, and the descent of man was as much a matter of public interest and secular joke as is the existence of degenerative traits at the present time.

Lombroso's present work cannot excite much adverse criticism, for the reason that it is largely a collection of facts and statistics, measurements and tables; in fact, so much so that the book becomes rather too technical to interest the general reader. The author endeavors to determine the physical characteristics belonging to the female criminal, including the prostitute.