

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.