

active, associate, corresponding and honorary members, which altogether now number over one hundred. The Society has enrolled in its membership the leading men of science of Binghamton, and is rapidly becoming a potent force in the city. Its object is 'to promote scientific study and research.' Two twenty-minute papers were presented on Saturday evening, one by Rev. J. H. LaRoche, rector of Trinity Church, on 'Christian Socialism;' the other by Arthur T. Vance, of the *Commercial Traveler's Home Magazine*, on 'Professor Huxley: a Biographical Sketch.' The Academy meets in the science room of the high school building on the first and third Saturday evenings of the academic year. At the next meeting Dr. Jack Killen, an oculist and optician, will give a paper on 'Refraction and Lens Making,' and Norman M. Pierce, chemist of the Manhattan Spirit Co., will discuss 'Earth Dust and Star Dust.' The officers of the academy are: President, E. R. Whitney; Vice-President, Herbert J. Jones; Secretary, Willard N. Clute; Treasurer, Fannie Webster; Corresponding Secretary, Dudley T. Greene; Executive Council: the President, the Secretary, Addison Ellsworth, Norman M. Pierce, Arthur T. Vance.

CHAPMAN & HALL will hereafter publish in Great Britain the important scientific and technical publications of John Wiley & Sons.

DR. JOSEPH F. JAMES, formerly Assistant Pathologist in the United States Department of Agriculture, has resigned his position and will in future practice medicine.

THE North Carolina Experiment Station has published a report of the weather in 1894. It describes the work of the State weather service and its several agencies, the meteorological observing stations, the signal display stations and the crop reporting systems. The latter dis-

tribute weekly the weather crop bulletin, the signal stations display flags to note the coming of cold waves and frost warnings and changes in the weather, while the observing stations furnish observations for securing a correct record of the climate and weather. People living on the low grounds of certain rivers are warned of the approach of floods. The number of places supplied with weather forecasts is nearly 500. The crop correspondents reporting for the weekly weather crop bulletin number 350 from all of the 96 counties. The meteorological observing stations number 73 in all parts of the State.

GINN & Co. have in press *Problems in Differential Calculus*, by Professor W. E. Byerly, of Harvard University.

THE first part of an *Encyclopedie Therapie*, edited by Professor Oscar Liebreich with the coöperation of Drs. M. Mendelssohn and A. Würzburg, has been published by August Hirschwald, Berlin. The works will be issued in nine parts, making three volumes.

THE third French Congress of Medicine will be held at Nancy in 1896, under the Presidency of M. Pitres, Dean of the Faculty Medicine of Bordeaux.

THE New Maryland Asylum, for the colonization of the incurably insane of the State, will be located in Springfield.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MAXEY HALL, a new dormitory at Brown University, was opened by a reception given by President Andrews on the afternoon of September 13th. The hall contains, in addition to 36 students' apartments, 8 recitation rooms and rooms for the Herbarium.

THE *Medical Record* states there were 19,048 medical students registered in Italy in 1894-95. The number of universities is twenty-one, and the number of students registered at the various universities varies

from 3,697 at Naples to 87 at Milan. The percentage of medical students to the population is about 61 per 100,000 inhabitants. In France it is 57 per 100,000, and in Germany 63 per 100,000.

THE Cambridge University Calendar for the academical year 1895-6 gives as the total number of undergraduate students 2,895, an increase of 56 compared with last year.

MISS HELEN GOULD has founded two scholarships of \$5,000 each in the University of the City of New York.

MRS. FRASER, widow of the late Bishop of Manchester, has bequeathed £3,000 to Oriel College, Oxford, for the foundation of a scholarship; and also £3,000 to Owens College, Manchester, towards the endowment of a chair of ecclesiastical history.

DR. LINGI PALAZZO, of Officio Centrale di Meteorologia e di Geodinamica, Rome, has been made a professor.

DR. BEHREND, of Leipzig, has been called to the chair of chemistry in the Technical High School of Hanover, and Dr. Roher to an assistant professorship in the University of Prague.

It is stated that Dr. Nathaniel Butler, of Chicago University, has declined the presidency of Colby University.

PROF. W. S. STRONG, of the University of Colorado, has accepted a professorship of physics and geology in Bates College.

THE will of the late Benjamin P. Cheney bequeathes \$10,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

THE Catholic University has decided to admit women to lectures in the regular and special courses.

It is stated that the Hon. Carroll D. Wright will give a course of lectures on political economy during the coming winter in the McManon Hall of Philosophy of the Catholic University.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ARE CONSEQUENCES EVER A TEST OF TRUTH?

I AM glad that Professor Cattell (*SCIENCE*, N. S., II., p. 271-2) has taken me at my word in regard to criticisms of recent articles; even though I may be the first to suffer. In my recent article in the *Monist* I had spoken of evil consequences as a reason for rejecting the view that natural selection is the only factor in social evolution. On this Professor Cattell remarks: "But even if these practical consequences follow, one is surely not justified in arguing that facts do not exist because we would gladly have them otherwise."

Now I admit that Professor Cattell may be right from a scientific point of view, but not, I think, from the widest philosophic point of view. This opens a very wide question, but hardly adapted to a scientific journal. I can, therefore, touch it very lightly and only in the way of barest suggestion; and even so I fear I shall raise more questions than I solve.

It is indeed true that many things which we, from the point of view of *the now and the self*, would gladly have otherwise are nevertheless true; yet I do not think that a doctrine or idea which, if carried out, would be disastrous to humanity *as a whole* and in *the final outcome* can be true. If it were, then our intellectual and moral natures would be in hopeless conflict and we ourselves in a state of irretrievable confusion.

Or put it in another way: There are certain postulates which are a necessary condition of our effective activity in this world. We cannot prove them; we assume them because necessary to our activity. We assume the existence of the external world as a necessary condition of *physical* activity. We assume a rational order of the universe—a universal reign of law—as a necessary condition of scientific activity. We may not be able in a particular case to see law and rational order; on the contrary, all may seem chaos and confusion, but we are sure that this seeming chaos is the result of our ignorance and that behind it is perfect order. So, also, there are postulates of our *moral nature*, postulates because absolutely necessary conditions of our *moral* activity. Such a postulate is the existence of a universal *moral order*—a perfect