

elected President of St. Lawrence University at Canton, N. Y.

FRANK L. McVEY, Ph. D., has been appointed instructor in economics at the University of Minnesota.

MR. F. P. SHELDON, for the past six years instructor in plant taxonomy at the University of Minnesota, has tendered his resignation in order to devote his energies to the management of his private business affairs and the profession of the law. Mr. A. A. Heller, late fellow of Columbia College and well known for his exploring trips in South Carolina, Texas, Idaho and the Sandwich Islands, will succeed Mr. Sheldon and will act as curator of the growing herbarium of the University.

THE following fellows in the sciences have been appointed at Cornell University: Entomology, James G. Needham, now instructor in Knox College, Illinois; mathematics (traveling fellowship), Prof. Paul Arnold, University of California; geology, Thomas L. Watson; agriculture, Leroy Anderson; mechanical engineering, W. O. Amsler; electrical engineering, L. A. Murray.

THE incomes of most of the colleges of Cambridge and Oxford have been greatly reduced by the agricultural depression. During the last university year the sum of only £72,943 was divided among the heads and fellows of the various colleges, as compared with £111,000 in 1882. The amounts contributed by the colleges for university purposes has been again decreased.

DR. DONALD MACALISTER has compiled, at the request of Syndics of the University Press, a guide entitled: *Advanced Study and Research in the University of Cambridge*, giving a clear account of the admirable opportunities offered for advanced study and research at Cambridge. As has already been stated in this JOURNAL, students holding degrees from other universities or having an equivalent training may pursue studies at the university and after two years of residence are admissible to the regular degrees. The facilities for study and research at Cambridge and Oxford are equal to those of German universities, and should attract an equal number of American students.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### PROF. BIGELOW'S SOLAR-MAGNETIC WORK.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Prof. W. S. Franklin, in his review of Prof. Bigelow's solar-magnetic work (this JOURNAL, Vol. III., No. 74), has performed a duty for which all meteorologists and physicists must thank him; but the question may fairly be raised as to whether the tone and temper of the performance were such as ought to characterize a report of an examination of even alleged scientific work. As one of many who have been more or less familiar with Prof. Bigelow's work during the past five or six years, I have all along been puzzled by the obscurity of his statements and the fact that I was unable to gain any intelligent idea of his methods. There was a certain satisfaction in finding that others met with no better success, although no one could deny the tremendous importance of the results which he thought he had reached. For most people life is too short for going over all the details of work which is being done by others, and usually a complicated scientific hypothesis receives its confirmation from verified prediction rather than from an analysis of methods and material. But while others have been waiting for Prof. Bigelow's work to prove itself by the practical application of which it was alleged to be capable, it is gratifying to know that some one was overhauling it and endeavoring to ascertain the foundation principles upon which it rests. It is quite proper that this should be done, and Prof. Bigelow or his friends can object only to the manner in which the reviewer has expressed himself. It will be admitted that there is a chance that Prof. Bigelow knows what he is doing, difficult as it seems to be for him to show other people, and it is to be hoped that he will not find in the unnecessarily harsh language of the review an excuse for ignoring it, but rather that he will not further delay an exposition, couched in simple and intelligible language, of the elementary and fundamental notions, definitions and principles on which his work rests. This might enable his friends to determine whether his theories 'are peculiarly wild and vagarious' or his results 'meaningless.' And he must not forget that their judgment has been in suspension for a long time. M.