

March 5, Col. Ira Ayer, Special Agent U. S. Treasury Department, New York. 'The Tin Plate Industry in the United States.'

March 12, Prof. D. S. Jacobus, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N. J. 'Artificial Light: Modern Methods Compared—Electric-Incandescent, Welsbach, Acetylene.'

March 19, Prof. W. P. Mason, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y. 'Sanitary Problems connected with Municipal Water Supplies.'

March 26, Mr. Alfred E. Hunt, President Pittsburg Reduction Co., Pittsburg, Pa. 'The development of the Use of Aluminum in the Arts.'

April 2, Dr. Conrad Berens, Philadelphia. 'Deafness and its Causes.'

April 9, Mr. George F. Kunz, with Tiffany & Co., New York. 'Precious Stones as they have influenced Geography.'

May 14, Prof. John B. DeMotte, Bryn Mawr, Pa. 'The Physical Basis of Mind.'

MR. J. D. WEEKS has just made a report, says the *Railroad Gazette*, on the supply of natural gas and its decline, from which it appears that the supply has fallen to half in seven years. In 1888 the value of the gas produced was \$22,629,875. In 1895 it was \$13,006,650. In Pennsylvania the fall has been much greater than in Ohio and Indiana. In 1888 the gas produced in Pennsylvania was worth \$19,282,375; in 1895 it was \$5,852,000. The decrease has been less rapid since 1891, owing to the general introduction of meters, but it has gone on at the rate of about 5 per cent. a year. As the product shrinks rapidly when pressure falls, it may not be over 10 or 15 years before very little gas is produced.

It is announced that the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, which is now owned by Mr. Young J. Pentland and is to be edited by Dr. G. A. Gibson, begins a new series with the issue for January, 1897.

THE report of the Manchester Museum for 1895-6 (says *Natural Science*) notes the importance of the recognition of the museum as a public institution by the Manchester City Council, in that a sum of £400 has been apportioned to the museum out of the Free Library Rate. The average Sunday attendance is 519, and may be considered highly satisfactory, seeing that the largest attendance ever recorded on a week

day was 1,079. The increase in the collections and library is very marked. The arrangement of the minerals by Mr. Gilbert Rigg, under the supervision of Dr. Burghardt, has been completed as far as the end of the silicates, and it is hoped that a guide to this collection may shortly be published.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE tenth annual convention of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland was held at the University of Pennsylvania on November 27th and 28th. The subject to which the meeting was especially devoted was the consideration of college entrance requirements. The requirements in history and in science were discussed separately, the latter by Prof. Ira Remsen, Prof. George F. Barker and Mr. O. D. Clark. The conference on college entrance requirements, with special reference to the age at which students now enter college and graduate from the professional schools, was taken part in by a large number of speakers, including Superintendent Edward Brooks, Philadelphia; President Eliot, Harvard University; Vice-Provost Fullerton, University of Pennsylvania; President Gilman, Johns Hopkins University; Commissioner of Education Harris; Chancellor Holland, Western University of Pennsylvania; President McCracken, New York University; President Patton, Princeton University; President Schurman, Cornell University; President Sharpless, Haverford College; President Thomas, Bryn Mawr College; Principal Thurber, Morgan Park Academy, and President Warfield, Lafayette College. On the evening of November 27th Dr. J. C. McKenzie gave the President's address, and brief addresses were made by Superintendent Brooks and President Eliot.

THE Hamilton Court Building Company, composed of friends of Columbia University, have bought for about \$200,000, sixteen lots having a frontage of 200 feet on the east side of Amsterdam avenue and a depth of 200 feet on 121st and 122d streets. It is proposed to erect at a cost of \$1,000,000 a dormitory that will accommodate about 900 students.

THE Board of University Regents in California have decided to locate in San Francisco the trade school for boys endowed by the late J. C. Wilmerding with \$400,000.

THREE new instructors have been appointed at the University of Vermont: Dr. David Irons in Philosophy, Dr. W. G. Bullard in Mathematics and Mr. F. S. English in Civil Engineering.

LORD REAY has been proposed for election as President of University College, London, in the room of the late Sir John Erichsen.

THE Austrian government proposes to admit women after next year to all faculties of the Universities except theology.

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY will add a wing for science at a cost of about \$50,000. The government has refused a grant for the purpose, but it appears that the city will pay the cost in return for land given by the University Court.

THE following appointments are taken from the *naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau*: Dr. Knövenagel, of the University of Heidelberg, has been made associate professor of chemistry; Dr. Wladislaw Rothert, associate professor of botany in the University of Kasan; Dr. Seitaro Goto, professor of botany in the First High School at Tokyo, Japan; Dr. Kepinsky, associate professor of mathematics at the University of Krakau; Dr. Dalwigk has been recognized as docent in mathematics in the University of Marburg, and Dr. Beer as docent in comparative physiology in the University at Vienna.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DATE OF PUBLICATION.

IN SCIENCE for November 20 (N. S., Vol. IV., No. 99, pp. 760, 761) Prof. E. D. Cope has appeared in defense of the resolution adopted by the Zoological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, criticised by me in the issue of SCIENCE for November 6th (N. S., Vol. IV., No. 97, pp. 691-693). I am glad to see that in this reply Prof. Cope has clearly defined the issue. It is comprised in the following statement: "The test of publication is according to Dr. Allen that it be offered to the public. I agree with this, but hold that

the only determinable test of date of offering to the public is the date of printing. The presumption is that as soon as a book is printed and bound it is offered to the public. That is the object of printing books."

It is gratifying to find that Prof. Cope agrees that the test of publication is the offering of a work to the public. As he says, in the case of books issued for sale, it does not matter whether or not any copies are sold, the book is published when it is offered for sale.

On the other hand, his contention that the "date of offering to the public is the date of printing" is an amazing misconception of what constitutes publication. Yet he concedes that, "in case of the detention of a book by the government subsequent to the printing the question of the coincidence of the date of printing and of 'offer to the public' will depend on whether copies of the book can be had on demand or not. If the book can be had it is 'offered to the public.' If it cannot be had it is not offered to the public." In this statement Prof. Cope, in trying to obscure the issue, fairly begs the question, and implies a condition of things that does not exist, as no one probably knows better than himself.

To speak in general, and in relation to other points raised by Prof. Cope, he says: "The date of printing, or alleged printing, of the last part of a book, the title page, has always been regarded as the date of publication. * * * We are accustomed to refer to the title page, or last page, to ascertain this date, for further than this we cannot go." This is quite true when there is not palpable evidence of misdating, particularly of antedating. Hence the rule generally adopted by scientific bodies, as stated in my former paper, "to the effect that the ostensible date, as that given on the title page of a book or pamphlet, or at the bottom of the signatures, shall be taken as the correct date, *unless known to be erroneous*." This rule is not only approved by Prof. Cope, but he strangely claims that it is in essential accord with the resolution of the Zoological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which, as he, himself, states it, 'recommended that the date of printing be regarded as the date of publication.'