

of appending subject indices to the papers published by the Society. Sir Joseph Lister then referred to the universal attention attracted to Röntgen's great discovery. He then passed in review some of the more important papers communicated to the Society during the year, and, in speaking of biology, alluded especially to the work of Prof. Schäfer, Prof. Farmer and Mr. Lloyd Williams. The presentation of medals then took place in the manner that we have already announced. In the evening Sir Joseph Lister presided at a dinner at which were present many distinguished guests and a large number of Fellows of the Society.

THE Appalachian Mountain Club, of Boston, has secured new and commodious rooms in the Tremont Building. They are centrally located and with a fine view, stretching from Big Blue to Prospect (the highest elevations near Boston), and including the Charles River basin and the State House. The library is now safely housed in a fire-proof building. The rooms are used for Council and Committee meetings, exhibitions and small social gatherings; they contain the library and collections, and are the workshop and office headquarters of the Club. The rooms are under the general supervision of the Room Committee and are open to all members from 3 to 5:30 p. m., under the charge of volunteer custodians.

Natural Science gives some account of the Institute of Jamaica, taken from its report for the year ending March, 1896. The museum has been removed from the lower floor of Date Tree Hall to adjoining new premises. These consist of two floors, the lower devoted to the collections of the Government Geological Survey, the Jamaica woods and most of the natural history collections; the upper floor is filled with the anthropological and the rock and mineral collections. By reason of these changes the library accommodation has been greatly increased, and the art department given room to develop. An attempt has been made to increase the public interest in the museum and natural history generally by the publication of museum notes in the Kingston newspapers. There has been an increase of 28 per cent. in the attendance of visitors to the museum.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

PROF. M. J. ELROD, of the Illinois Wesleyan University, has resigned to accept the chair of biology in the Montana State University.

THE following further appointments have been made at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Samuel C. Prescott, instructor in biology; Edward M. Bragg, assistant in mechanical engineering; Leonard H. Goodhue, assistant in analytic chemistry; Amadeus W. Grabau, assistant in geology; Minor S. Jamieson, assistant in civil engineering; Albert J. Wells, assistant in mechanical drawing; Clarence W. Perley, assistant in biology.

M. POINCARÉ, now professor of mathematical physics and the theory of probabilities in the faculty of sciences of the University of Paris, has, at his request, been transferred to the chair of mathematical astronomy. M. Boussinesq, now professor of mechanics, takes the chair vacated by M. Poincaré.

THERE is now once more a University of Paris. The various faculties at Paris have been reorganized with a certain freedom from government control. The inauguration of the University has been celebrated in the new buildings of the Sorbonne with suitable ceremonies, which included an oration by M. Lavissee.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

X-RAYS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The remark has been frequently made that the almost complete absence of specular reflection in the case of the X-rays may depend upon the want of sufficient polish of the reflecting surface. So far as I have noticed, no one has tried the experiment with mercury as the reflector. Very simple arrangements would admit of obtaining a perfectly plane surface, which, as to reflecting power, would leave nothing to be desired. A concave surface of mercury might be found to converge the rays.

M. CAREY LEA.

REPLY TO PROFESSOR HALSTED.

In the last number of SCIENCE Prof. Halsted, by bringing into juxtaposition two statements which were widely separated in a recent note