

bility that *Evotomys* would cease to exist within the limits of Barnstable county.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE corner stones of the Havemeyer Hall of Chemistry and of the Engineering Building of Columbia University have been informally laid. The buildings are already further advanced than might be supposed from the fact that the corner stones have just been laid, and it is hoped that these, as well as the Library, Schermerhorn Hall for the Natural Sciences and the Physical Building, will be ready for occupancy in the summer of 1897. The excavations, which are the most extensive hitherto undertaken in New York, for the University Hall are nearly completed. This building will contain the Academic Theatre, the Gymnasium and the Dining Hall.

THE Yale Alumni Association of California, following the example of the Harvard Alumni of the same State, has established a graduate scholarship at Yale University, yielding an income of \$300, to be awarded to a graduate of one of the California colleges on nomination by the Association.

THE present registration at the University of Pennsylvania now amounts to 2,752, which is a gain of 130 over last year, although the requirements for admission have been raised.

THE number of students in German universities last summer is reported to have been 29,802; in 1895 it was 28,709, so that the numerical increase for the present year is 993, or 3.5 per cent. The distribution of the students among the various universities was as follows: 4,649 in Berlin, 3,777 in Munich, 2,876 in Leipzig, 1,863 in Bonn, 1,425 in Breslau, 1,415 in Halle, 1,379 in Freiburg, 1,339 in Würzburg, 1,172 in Tübingen, 1,164 in Heidelberg, 1,138 in Erlangen, 1,007 in Göttingen, 965 in Marburg, 948 in Greifswald, 938 in Strassburg, 761 in Jena, 708 in Kiel, 700 in Königsberg, 630 in Giessen, 500 in Rostock, and 420 in Münster. The number of students at Vienna was 2,228, but only 1,370 of these were regular students.

THE Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has been elected Lord Rector of the University of

Glasgow, having a majority of 234 votes over his opponent, Mr. Augustine Birrell.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

AGE OF THE ISLAND SERIES.

IN my paper on '*The Potomac Formation*' in the Fifteenth Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey, describing the section along the Raritan River, I remarked (pp. 335-336) that "from Morgan, the most easterly point, the formation may be traced northward across Staten Island and the northern shore of Long Island, and it reappears on Martha's Vineyard in the celebrated cliffs of Gay Head. * * * Along this most eastern line a new phase is seen, viz., the occurrence of concretions in the variegated clays, in the form of hard ironstones, which, when broken open, are found to contain vegetable remains in an admirable state of preservation. I am, therefore, disposed to regard these ferruginous, concretionary beds, extending from Staten Island to Martha's Vineyard, as the very latest phase of the Potomac formation, which I shall call the Island Series, although, from the similarity in the flora, I am disposed to include them, along with the Raritan and Amboy Clays, in the Alburian Series."

Later in the same paper (pp. 373-382) the nature of the flora of this series was set forth, and it was shown that, so far as known at the time that paper was written, it consisted of 133 species, 52 of which were also found in the Amboy Clays, and the great preponderance of which were well developed dicotyledonous forms. The nearest affinities to these plants are afforded by the Atane beds of Greenland, which have always been correlated with the Cenomanian of Europe. Dr. Newberry regarded the Amboy Clays as representing that age and therefore as belonging to the Upper Cretaceous. In his monograph of the '*Flora of the Amboy Clays*,' soon to appear posthumously, he gives his argument in full. He thought them of about the age of the Dakota Group. My opinion that they were somewhat lower, and should be placed at the summit of the Lower Cretaceous, having been called in question, I defended it in the paper referred to (pp. 373-374), as I think successfully. I had