

"It is impossible to compute the area of a circle on the diameter as the linear unit without trespassing upon the area outside of the circle to the extent of including one-fifth more area than is contained within the circle's circumference, because the square on the diameter produces the side of a square which equals nine when the arc of ninety degrees equals eight. By taking the quadrant of the circle's circumference for the linear unit we fulfill the requirements of both quadrature and rectification of the circle's circumference. Furthermore, it has revealed the ratio of the chord and arc of ninety degrees, which is as seven to eight, and also the ratio of the diagonal and one side of a square, which is as ten to seven, disclosing the fourth important fact, that the ratio of the diameter and circumference is as five-fourths to four, and because of these facts and the further fact that the rule in present use fails to work both ways mathematically it should be discarded as wholly wanting and misleading in its practical applications. \* \* \* And be it remembered that these noted problems had been long since given up by scientific bodies as unsolvable mysteries and above man's ability to comprehend."

WE have received from the Australian Museum at Sydney, N. S. W., a memoir which is the first of a series giving an account of the Atoll of Funafuti by Mr. Charles Hedley, conchologist. We learn from an introductory note by the curator, Mr. R. Etheridge, Jr., that the local committee of the Funafuti Coral Reef Boring Expedition, of the Royal Society, in charge of Professor Sollas, having suggested to the Trustees of the Australian Museum that one of their officers should be deputed to accompany the expedition, Mr. Charles Hedley was selected for the purpose. Mr. Hedley left Sydney in H. M. S. 'Penguin,' under the command of Captain Mervyn Field, R. N., on May 1st, arriving at Funafuti on May 21st. He remained on the island for two and a half months, leaving in the same vessel. On the return voyage to Fiji, the Island of Nukulailai was touched at, where scientific investigations were renewed for two days. Mr. Hedley finally reached Sydney on August 22d. During his stay on Funafuti, Mr. Hedley succeeded in amassing an interesting collection, particularly of invertebrate and ethnological objects, together with much valuable scientific information. The collections are now in process of de-

scription by the Scientific Staff of the Museum, and the results are being published in the order in which the study of the various groups is completed.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE late Mr. William Lampson, of LeRoy, New York, has bequeathed his fortune, with the exception of a few small bequests, to Yale University. The bequest is said to amount to about \$500,000. \$150,000 is to be used for an auditorium and the rest for the endowment of professorships.

THE Stevens Institute of Technology, celebrated the 25th anniversary of its foundation on February 18th and 19th. There was a dinner at the Hotel Waldorf, a reception by Mrs. E. A. Stevens and a meeting at which addresses were made by Bishop Potter and President Morton, who described the achievements of the institution, its present condition and its future aims. Mr. Dod read a letter from President Morton, in which the President gave 1,000 shares of stock of the Texas Pacific Railroad to the board of trustees, 'to be held until their appreciated value with such other funds as may be devoted to the purpose, may be adequate for the erection and maintenance of the proposed new building generally referred to as the alumni building.'

THE Marquis of Bute, the present Lord Rector of the University of St. Andrews, will erect for the University four laboratories, including lecture rooms and museums, for the departments of anatomy, physiology, materia medica and botany.

MISS UMPHERSTON has been appointed lecturer in physiology at St. Andrews University.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

'THE ARGENTAUROM PAPERS.'

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I think I ought not to pass unnoticed a statement and an unauthorized use of my name, made by Mr. S. H. Emmens in an advertisement just published in SCIENCE. He says: "The author has received many communications from eminent authorities explicitly approving of his work; while others have written in such a manner as to show that