

use of the Society in Paris, the dedication ceremonies having taken place on January 14th, President Faure assisting. The cost of the building alone was \$100,000, to which must be added the cost of the ground, \$80,000. On the ground floor is the large meeting room, which, including the communicating conversation room, measures 72x49 feet, and is of interest because of the peculiar construction of the floor, whereby it may be mechanically lowered at the platform end and thus in a few minutes be converted into a sloping hall for meetings. The upper floors, in addition to offices, committee rooms, etc., contain ample room for the valuable library, a laboratory, a photographic room and the residence of the General Secretary. The building was constructed in the short space of nine months from designs by Professor Delman, in the style of architecture of Louis XIV.

It is stated in the *British Medical Journal* that a professor of the Paris Natural History Museum accidentally discovered an entrance into subterranean passages running underneath the Jardin des Plantes and a part of the Boulevard Saint-Marcel. The archives of the Museum furnish proof that these galleries were constructed by the Romans; in the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries they were repaired and consolidated, and are now in perfect order. Nothing is known as to the purpose they served. M. Armand Viré, a corresponding member of the Museum, asked for permission to use the passages as a laboratory for researches on animal life inhabiting caverns, and studying the successive phases in the transformation of these degenerate forms of life, and the laboratory was inaugurated a few days ago. M. Viré, followed by fifty invited guests, bareheaded and stooping, each carrying a candle, traversed the labyrinth of galleries until they reached a round hall, the roof of which is supported by a stone column. This is the principal laboratory. It contains stone tables with perfectly flat surfaces. The water supply is assured by a good system of pipes. Seine water was in the first instance used, but the animals died. They were replaced by others, which were given spring water and are in a flourishing condition.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY rejected, on May 21st, the proposal to confer degrees upon women by a vote of 1,713 to 662.

A COMMITTEE of the Board of Trustees of the College of the City of New York has recommended that eight assistants be appointed to assistant professorships, with salaries from \$2,500 to \$3,500, according to term of service. The promotions are expected to include Charles A. Doremus, chemistry and physics; Ivan Sickles, natural history; and Gustave Legras, J. R. Sim and C. R. Smith, mathematics.

MISS MARY CLOYD BURNLEY, of Swarthmore, Penn., who will receive the degree of B.A. from the Woman's College of Baltimore in June, has received the fellowship in chemistry from Bryn Mawr College for next year. Miss Burnley also receives a summer scholarship in biology at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Holl, Mass., from the Woman's College.

DR. FRECH has been promoted to a full professorship of geology in the University of Breslau, Dr. Carl Paal to a full professorship of pharmaceutical and applied chemistry in the University of Erlangen, and Dr. Raphael Freiherr v. Erlanger and Dr. Paul Samassa to associate professorships of zoology in the University of Heidelberg. Dr. Bredt, of Bonn, has been made full professor of chemistry in the Polytechnic Institute at Aix, and Professor Franz Meyer, docent in mathematics in the School of Mines at Clausthal, has been called to the University of Königsburg.

A SPECIAL course in paleontologic geology will be given by Mr. Stuart Weller at the University of Chicago during the summer quarter beginning July 1st. The course will be devoted to the laboratory study of fossil invertebrates. Its aim will be to give instruction and training in the identification of fossils and in the interpretation of fossil faunas. The work will be entirely individual in its character and will be adapted to the special wants and needs of each student. The offering of the course is experimental and its repetition will depend upon the demand which may be found for it. There will accompany this a class-room course

in Geological Life Development by Mr. Weller. The usual courses in general and special geology will be given by Professor Salisbury during the first half of the summer quarter, followed by his field course during the second part.

MR. FRANCIS H. SCOTT writes us that the bill before the Legislature to change the name of the Michigan Mining School to the Michigan College of Mines became a law early in April, and the latter is now the proper name of the institution. The students and the people of the Upper Peninsula generally have accepted the new name gladly, considering it much more appropriate for the character of the work done in the institution. Another bill which has been pending for some time regarding the charging of tuition has been passed, fixing the rate at \$25.00 for residents of Michigan, and not less than \$50.00 or more than \$200.00 for those residing outside of Michigan. The rate is under consideration and, in all probability, will be fixed at \$150.00. This tuition fee will correspond with that charged by other first-grade technical schools in America, such as Columbia College School of Mines, the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the Stevens Institute of Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. When the school was working out its policy, trying to solve its educational problems, it was thought wisest to charge no tuition, but to collect as wide a constituency as possible in order that there might be all possible chance to make the methods as broad and thorough as could be done. It was also deemed hardly just to the students educated here to demand tuition until the institution was much better equipped for its work than the appropriations granted during the first decade of its existence permitted. Now, that success has been attained in educating men for practical work, as is evidenced by the positions which its eighty-six graduates hold, as given in the last catalogue, the institution seems fully warranted in charging hereafter for its instruction. The new law goes into effect immediately after August 19, 1897, and will, therefore, not apply to students entering previous to that time. A prospectus will soon be issued by the College, giving the details of the regulations finally adopted by the Board of Control.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

DISTRIBUTION OF MARINE MAMMALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Without discussing the general questions treated in Dr. Sclater's paper in SCIENCE of May 14th, it may be well to call attention to some errors of detail.

Dr. Sclater credits the North Atlantic region (Arctatlantica) with the exclusive possession of the genera *Delphinapterus* and *Monodon* and the species *Balæna mysticetus*.

Monodon, though rare, occurs in the region of Bering Strait, while it is not known, as yet, to enter Bering Sea.

Delphinapterus is abundant in Bering Sea, often ascending the large rivers which fall into that sea. Specimens have been noted in the Yukon 600 miles from salt water.

Balæna mysticetus, though now nearly exterminated, was a short time ago the principal object of the whale fishery of the North Pacific, Bering and Okhotsk seas. During the early days of the whale fishery several well attested instances occurred of whales (*B. mysticetus*) struck in one ocean, as the Atlantic, being afterward killed in the North Pacific, and *vice versa*.

It may also be mentioned that less than ten years ago a herd of over 200 fur seal were noted on one of the Galapagos Islands and an expedition was fitted out to go there for the purpose of hunting them.

WM. H. DALL.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON,
May 16, 1897.

A POSTSCRIPT ON THE TERMINOLOGY OF TYPES.

MR. LUCAS' remarks might have been more intelligible to me had they followed instead of preceded the lucid paper by Mr. Schuchert: 'What is a type in Natural History?' (SCIENCE, N. S., V., pp. 636-640, April, 1897.) To save further misapprehension, permit me to add that under 'type-specimens' I included 'holotypes,' and at all events the more important 'cotypes' and 'paratypes.'

This slight misunderstanding shows how necessary the definition of these terms has become. It also exemplifies a danger that needs constant guarding against, namely, the employment of a common word in a restricted or altered technical sense. The man in the street