

House of Lords that the tax leads to the dispersion of art collections, pictures being exported from England to the value of \$6,000,000 annually.

THE *British Medical Journal* states, on the authority of the Secretary of the Pretoria Agricultural Society, that Professor Koch's results with rinderpest inoculation are better than usually stated to be. He says that the method carried out in hundreds of instances has proved successful, but the unfortunate part has been that the ignorant Boer has not carried out all the particulars as instructed. He knew of one instance in which a Boer, after inoculating an animal with the virus, actually cleaned his fingers on the back of the nearest one grazing. In his opinion, however, it is not quite possible to stamp out the disease by the method, as it is impossible to inoculate throughout South Africa the hundred thousands of heads of cattle belonging to the natives in isolated districts in various parts of the country, and this contagious virus is, moreover, carried by the aasvogels (a species of vulture), who feed on the carcasses and carry the rinderpest from farm to farm.

It is stated in *Nature* that a botanical society has recently been established at Perth, West Australia, and has been given the designation of the Mueller Botanic Society, as a tribute to the memory of the late Baron von Mueller, who spent the best part of his life in investigating the plants and other products of Australia. Sir John Forrest has been elected President of the new Society; Mr. Wittenoom and Mr. Leake, Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Skews, Secretary.

THE Auckland Institute, says *Natural Science*, has decided to add a new hall, 50 feet square, to its Museum, on the east side of the Ethnographical Hall. It is intended to receive the statuary presented by Mr. T. Russell, which has hitherto found an uncongruous home among stuffed vertebrates. The space thus gained will be occupied by groups of the larger mammals, and £100 offered by Mr. Russell will be used to procure a group of the larger carnivores. Little Barrier Island, on which an attempt is being made to preserve the indigenous fauna and flora

of New Zealand, has been placed under the control of the Institute, with a grant of £200 for the first year's expenses. Mr. R. H. Shakespear has been appointed curator, and it is hoped that he may be able to stop the depredations of collectors.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It is announced that a college for women under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church will be established at Washington. It will be called Trinity College, and will be adjacent to the Catholic University of America.

THE municipal council of Marseilles has passed a resolution favoring the establishment of a university in that city.

MR. C. L. HERRICK, lately professor of biology at Denison University, has been elected President of the Territorial University at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

DR. A. R. HILL has been appointed professor of psychology and ethics in the University of Nebraska, and Dr. E. L. Hinman has been promoted to an adjunct professorship of philosophy in the same University.

MISS BERTHA STONEMAN, who has been engaged for several years in the study of the development of fungi in the botanical department of Cornell University, and who received last year the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, has been appointed professor of botany in the Huegenot College in Cape Colony, South Africa. This is a college for the education of the daughters of the French and Dutch Huegenots and English residents in South Africa. She sails from New York on Saturday, July 24th, for Liverpool, and thence by the British African line of steamers for South Africa.

MISS ARMA ANNA SMITH, M. S., and Miss Ethel Muir, Ph.D., both of Cornell University have been appointed assistants in Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass., the former in botany and the latter in philosophy.

MISS ELLEN HAYES, for the past nine years professor of mathematics in Wellesley College, has just been made professor of applied mathematics in the same College. The courses of

study conducted by Miss Hayes include mechanics, thermodynamics, geodynamics and theoretical astronomy.

PROFESSOR HUGO DE VRIES, of Amsterdam, has been called to the chair of botany in the University of Würzburg as successor to the late Professor J. Sachs. In the same University, Professor Ph. Stohr, of Zurich, has been appointed professor of anatomy in succession to Professor v. Kölliker, who will hereafter confine himself to histology and embryology. Dr. Salomon has qualified as docent in geology and mineralogy in the University at Heidelberg.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW TERMS IN GEOLOGY.

PROFESSOR DAVIS, speaking in behalf of new terms in geology and geography (SCIENCE, July 2, p. 24), makes the following points: that new terms are necessary to any advancing science; that new things and new ideas must have new names, and that the investigator must be left as free to name his conclusions as to reach them. He mentions some terms introduced by Powell in 1874 as examples of useful ones, and others of later introduction which he expects to see survive; at the same time he admits that he has been not a little amused at watching the rest of us 'wrestle' with new terms.

These contentions seem at first glance to be altogether reasonable. But that new terms are demanded by an advancing science is admissible only in a limited sense. The discovery of new elements, new materials, new biologic forms, all call for new names. To these no one thinks of objecting. Aside from such cases, what book published in the last fifty years has contributed more than any other to the advance of science all along the line? Darwin's 'Origin of Species.' And how many new terms did Mr. Darwin use? Not one—if we except such an expression as 'natural selection.'

The newest science of which I have any knowledge is that now being remarkably developed by Dr. Charles H. Gilbert, of Stanford University, in studying geographic and geologic changes by means of the fish faunas. And I venture to say that his splendid results will eventually be brought forth, not dressed in the

paraphernalia of a new terminology, but without the use of a single new expression.

It certainly does not follow, then, that an advancing science and new ideas must, of necessity, have new names.

As for freedom to name one's conclusions, I would ask: Is this naming a matter that concerns the finder alone, or does it concern every one who has to do with the science? Are facts and conclusions private property to be named, like one's dog, as the owner happens to fancy, or are they a part of science, and to be named with some reference to those who may have to use them?

Mention is made of certain geographic terms that are expected to prove useful. I may specify one of these—*Cuesta* (Spanish for the flank or slope of a hill, but also used for a hill itself)—as the kind of a word which, in my opinion, is not demanded either by the necessities of an advancing science, or as representing a new idea. And if we see fit to name one kind of a hill *cuesta*, with just as much reason we may baptize with new technical names all the different parts, kinds, sizes and shapes of hills on the face of the earth, while students may be asked to fill their bellies with these husks of science under the impression that they are necessary parts of the science itself. Everyone remembers the story of Agassiz setting a new student to study a case of birds, and how, when he reported a few hours later that he knew all of their names, he was told to forget the names and to go back and study the birds.

But the main point is whether such things advance knowledge or serve important purposes in that advancement. When Mr. Gilbert described certain structural features of deep-seated igneous rocks he advanced our knowledge, and when he gave us a rational name by which to call those hitherto unknown forms he gave us a label for that knowledge. But it hardly follows from an instance of this kind that forms and structures that geologists have long known and comprehended should be given new names either from the Spanish or from any other language. We shall not understand a synclinal mountain any better by calling it a 'Shickshinny.' It is hardly a case of new bottles needed for new wine.