

At the request of the daughters of George Bond, Professor Holden, Director of the Lick Observatory, has undertaken to arrange the manuscript material in their hands in an orderly form. The work will be entitled 'Memorials of William Cranch Bond, Director of the Harvard College Observatory, 1840-59, and of his Son, George Phillips Bond, Director of the Harvard College Observatory, 1859-65,' and will be sold for two dollars by C. A. Murdock & Co., 532 Clay Street, San Francisco, and by Lemcke & Büchner, 812 Broadway, New York City. The contents are: Chapter I., Life of W. C. Bond, 1789-1859; II., Life of G. P. Bond, 1824-1865; III., Selections from the Diaries of George Bond; IV., Selections from the Correspondence of George Bond; V., Account of the Scientific Work of the Bonds; Appendices, giving a complete list of their published writings; and Index of Proper Names. The book will be well illustrated. It is hoped by the kindness of Professor E. C. Pickering, Director of the Harvard College Observatory, to reproduce two fine steel engravings of the Great Comet of 1858 and of the nebula of *Orion*, from the plates of the *Annals* H. C. O.

THE British Museum (Natural History) has acquired, says *Natural Science*, the Savin collection of vertebrate remains from the Norfolk forest-bed and other deposits of that coast. A collection of gault fossils from the 300-foot level of the shaft of the Dover coal-fields has also been received, and it is understood that the whole of the remains from this very interesting and important shaft will be preserved for the national collections, as a typical reference series for the underground geology of the southeast of England.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

At the meeting of the corporation of Brown University on September 1st statements were presented by the Conference Committee and by President Andrews. He states that he has been reticent and careful in expressing views on the free coinage of silver by the United States; that he would discountenance any proposal which, in his judgment, bids fair to place

the country's finances on a monetary basis of silver alone; that he has always insisted that the principal and interest of our public debt should be paid in gold, and that he had only publicly advocated that form of bimetallism which was a part of the Republican platform in the last election. He states further that his resignation was made on account of his desire to regard the University's interests and that the publication of the Committee's minutes did not proceed from his motion. As President Andrews simply cleared himself from the charges made by the Conference Committee and did not attempt to defend reasonable freedom of speech, we are especially glad that the corporation, in asking him to withdraw his resignation, stated that they did this "especially desiring to avoid, in the conduct of the University, the imputation even of the consideration of party questions, or of the dominance of any class, but that in the language of its charter, 'In this liberal and catholic institution all members whereof shall enjoy full, free, absolute and uninterrupted liberty of conscience,' which includes freedom of thought and expression, it cannot feel that the divergence of views upon the 'silver question' and of its effects upon the University between you and the members of the corporation is an adequate cause of separation between us." President Andrews has not yet made a reply to the letter from the corporation, but it is understood that he will not withdraw his resignation.

THE executor of the will of the late Mrs. Lucy Fayerweather has brought suit in the United States Courts with a view to setting aside the decision of the State Courts awarding the estate of the late Daniel B. Fayerweather to the colleges to which it was bequeathed. The heirs-at-law are also contesting the will of the late William Lampson, who left most of his estate to Yale University, alleging that he was of unsound mind. We wish that the moral insanity which leads people to make these contests disqualified them at law from inheriting any money.

DR. D. K. PEARSON has presented Beloit college with a dormitory costing \$30,000.

YALE University receives \$5,000 by the will

of the late Miss Julia Lockwood for the foundation of a scholarship.

FUNDS given by friends of Smith College for a new dormitory will, it is said, be used for a chemical laboratory. It is hoped to secure some \$30,000 for the building.

WE regret that the announcement made to the effect that Mr. S. B. Brownell had presented Barnard College with a building for a dormitory is incorrect. It had its origin probably in the fact that plans have been filed for the west wing of the new buildings of Barnard College, given by Mrs. Fiske, which will be temporarily used as a dormitory.

THE sixth annual summer school held at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, has just closed one of the most successful sessions of its history. The school is organized in two sections, an elementary section and a university section. The enrollment of the university section in the several scientific subjects was as follows:

General Chemistry; Professor Frankforter.....	40
Entomology; Mr. Oestlund	14
General Geology; Professor Hall.....	38
Physiology; Professor Nachtrieb.....	18
Plant Physiology; Mr. Ramaley.....	12
Physics; Professor Jones.....	30

At the recent Zionist conference for the colonization of Palestine by the Jews at Bâle, a commission was appointed to report upon the establishment of a university at Jerusalem.

A SPECIAL commission will meet shortly at St. Petersburg to discuss the introduction of universal and compulsory education in Russia.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE PASSAGE OF MIGRATING BIRDS ACROSS THE LUNAR DISK ON THE NIGHTS OF SEPTEMBER 23 AND 24, 1896.

THE time is at hand when records of the transit of migrating birds across the moon's face may be secured, and I desire to put on record the following measurements, made last year, which may be of assistance to observers. All records show that the migration takes place at night, at least in the case of the smaller birds, and the dates immediately preceding and following the full of the Moon, with probably a cer-

tain amount of latitude for weather and temperature, are the ones chosen.

The instrument used in these observations was the finder of the equatorial of the Ladd Observatory. Its aperture is 4 inches, and the magnifying power was 40 diameters. When focussed on the Moon, the eye-piece had to be pulled out 1.74 inches, and the principal focal length was 4 ft. 9.59 ins.

The observations may be divided into three groups:

- a. 7:45 to 8:15 Eastern M. T., Sept. 23d.
- b. 8:15 to 9:15 " " " "
- c. 7:45 to 8:15 " " " 24th.

The apparent altitudes and azimuths of the Moon were:

Sept. 23, 7:45, altitude =	19°.0,	azimuth N. 88°.0 E.
" " 8:15, " "	24°.6, " "	S. 87°.1 E.
" " 9:15, " "	35°.4, " "	S. 76°.8 E.
Sept. 24, 7:45, " "	14°.6, " "	N. 79°.9 E.
" " 8:15, " "	19°.8, " "	N. 82°.3 E.

The mean altitudes were:

Period a ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour) 21°.8 above the true horizon.

b (1 hour) 30°.0 " " " "

c ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour) 17°.2 " " " "

Journal of Observations.

The flights were so rapid that it was thought best to attempt nothing more than hasty comparisons with prominent lunar features in order to get estimates of the apparent size of the birds. Three points were selected for this purpose:

Aristarchus (longer inside diam.)	approximately	0'.3
Copernicus " " " "	"	0'.6
Mare Crisium " " " "	"	3'.0

Times were estimated by a chronometer audibly beating half seconds.

First night, September 23d. From 7:45 to 8:15 scarcely a minute passed without the passage of several birds, in groups numbering from one to five or six in immediate succession. It was obvious that the birds traveled in little companies. After perhaps a minute without any, one would appear, followed by four or five more in the next ten seconds—perhaps members of one family keeping near each other to relieve the loneliness of the long journey. The great majority traveled from north to south. Few deviated more than 20° or 30° from this