

THE report of the committee of the British Council on Education on schools for the blind and deaf, for the past year, has been published as a Blue-book, signed by the Duke of Devonshire and Sir John Gorst, and is abstracted in the *London Times*. During the year ending August 31, 1896, the number of certified schools increased from 84 to 91. These schools provide accommodation for 1,476 blind children (268 day scholars and 1,208 boarders), and for 3,004 deaf children (1,699 day scholars and 1,305 boarders). The total grants paid for the year amounted to £15,629 12s. A general report by the Rev. T. W. Sharpe, Senior Chief Inspector, follows, covering the year ended March 31, 1897. He states that the year has been marked by steady progress, and pleads for higher payment of teachers, both for the blind and deaf. The hope is expressed that a recent return called for by the department will produce some result. This return requires each school authority to give the name of every blind and deaf child in its district between the ages of 5 and 16 and 7 and 16 respectively. The address of the parent or guardian and the provision made under the statute for the education of the child are also required. With regard to deaf children, Mr Sharpe states that the teaching on the oral system in some institutions is very imperfectly carried out, and that oral teaching is in danger of being discredited from the fact that, however excellent the school teaching may be, the continued practice of speech outside the schoolroom is either left to chance or so mixed with signs that it receives very little care.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

DR. ANDREWS has withdrawn his resignation from the presidency of Brown University.

WE should be glad to welcome a 'Cosmopolitan' reading circle or Correspondence School, even though its standard should be no higher than that of *The Cosmopolitan* magazine. But the projectors of the 'Cosmopolitan University' cannot make silver equal to gold by debasing a name. Fortunately, the performance is illegal in the State of New York. Section 33, Chapter

378, of the laws of the State reads as follows:

No individual, association or corporation not holding university or college degree-conferring powers by special charter from the Legislature of the State or from the regents shall confer any degrees, or after January 1, 1893, shall transact business under or in any way assume the name university or college, till it shall have received from the regents under their seal written permission to use such name.

The minimum requirements for a degree-conferring institution have been carefully defined by the regents, and it is scarcely needful to state that these cannot be met by an annex to a magazine.

AN editorial in the last number of the *Educational Review* on the Brown University incident concludes with the moral: "What a comment this occurrence is on the project for a national university at Washington, that is still kept alive by earnest but, we believe, misguided men!" The article was written on the assumption that "Rhode Island and Providence will not support an educational institution in which an officer of prominence holds views antagonistic to their own on an economic question that is under present discussion." The frank and wise declaration of the corporation of Brown University for academic freedom, even under aggravating circumstances, shows that the *Educational Review* is needlessly pessimistic in its point of view. It would, indeed, be better to have a struggle for academic freedom in a national university and lose than not to have the university and the struggle. The effect on other universities and on the education of the people would be beneficial, and the defeat would be but temporary. Neither pedagogy nor politics is at present a science, and they only come within the scope of this JOURNAL in so far as they concern the advancement of science. But an affiliation of the national scientific institutions at Washington, with power to grant degrees for research, would be the basis for a university in which science and investigation would have the place now held at Oxford, *e. g.*, by the classics and information. It is a scientific experiment that all men of science should advocate.

THE *Educational Review*, however, appears to

be also pessimistic regarding those whom it calls 'natural scientists,' for the editorial quoted above says: "Devotees of natural science are, as a rule, the most intolerant of all university teachers, especially toward differences of opinion within their own sphere." We have published a number of articles on scientific education, but none of these have betrayed a prejudice against the classics equal to that against modern scientific education shown recently by Professor Wilson, of Princeton; Professor Peck, of Columbia, and President Stryker, of Hamilton, nor equal to that against the classics in the recent program of President Andrews, himself formerly a teacher of classics.

WHILE engaged in promulgation we may remark that President Stryker, who had much to say last winter in regard to 'debasing' the A. B. degree by granting it for scientific studies, has allowed Hamilton College to give the degree of Ph. D. *causa honoris*. This, we believe, is illegal in the State of New York.

THE will of Charles T. Wilder, of Wellesley, Mass., gives more than \$100,000 to charitable and educational institutions, including \$10,000 each to Robert College at Constantinople, the Armenian School for Girls at Constantinople, the Colorado College at Colorado Springs, Whitman College at Walla Walla, Wash., and Charleston College, Northfield, Mass. In a codicil dated July 27, 1897, Mr. Wilder bequeathed \$15,000 to the trustees of Amherst College for the purchase of land for an observatory. The residue of the estate, both real and personal, is left to the executors in trust to be distributed among charitable, educational and religious institutions.

THERE is offered this year at Amherst College a prize of \$500 for the best prepared freshman in the classical division and a similar prize of \$300 in the scientific division.

THREE new associate professors have been appointed at Oberlin College, Charles Edward St. John, Ph.D. (Harvard), in physics and mathematics; Herbert Lyon Jones, M.S. (Denison), A.M. (Harvard), in Botany, and S. F. McLennan, A.B. (Toronto), and Ph.D. (Chicago), in psychology and pedagogy.

At Williams College, Mr. Edward V. Hunt-

ingdon (Harvard) has been appointed instructor in mathematics and Mr. Frank H. Williams, assistant in chemistry.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

AMPHIBIA OR BATRACHIA.

As Professor Wilder* has expressed the hope that the discussion on the proper name of the class variously known as Amphibia or Batrachia 'may continue until all doubts are removed,' I venture to add my contribution. Dr. Baur† has treated the history of the nomenclature in his usual thorough manner, but perhaps has not laid sufficient emphasis on one point (although fully recognizing it himself), which has influenced me more than any others and probably will appeal to Professor Wilder more than the others.

The principle of priority of nomenclature should guide us in the selection of names of large groups as well as those of genera and species, provided there is no counteracting element or objection. It is especially important to retain the names of Linnæus as much as possible.

Linnæus introduced into the system six classes—Mammalia, Aves, Amphibia, Pisces, Insecta and Vermes. These have all been generally retained by succeeding naturalists except Amphibia. While many have adopted Amphibia, however, still more, perhaps, have employed Batrachia. But there appears to be no good reason for this use of Batrachia at the expense of Amphibia.

Amphibia should be retained as a *class* name, as it was at first given *as such*, and the fact that the class as originally constituted contained diverse elements should weigh no more against the adoption than the analogous extensions in the case of *Insecta* and *Vermes* or innumerable genera. The name should be restricted to the typical subdivision of the primitive Amphibia.

The name Amphibia, doubtless, expresses the concept of Linnæus derived from his own observations of living animals, and he must have been most impressed with the metamorphosis of some which he mentions first among

* SCIENCE, August 20, 1897, p. 295.

† SCIENCE, July 30, 1897, pp. 170-174.