

copper salts, both soluble and insoluble, of various strengths, and also in keeping oysters on a bottom of iron or copper salts—including rusty iron, old copper and copper fillings—but in none of these experiments (the full details of which will be published later) have they got sufficiently consistent and continuous results to enable them to determine whether or not the animal obtains its copper from the contents of the alimentary canal or from the water through the surface of the body. These experiments and observations are still being carried on. They add that the green oysters containing copper are found in some localities where there can be no question of copper mines or old copper from ships' bottoms, and suggest that the pigmentation may be due to a disturbed metabolism whereby the normal copper of the body becomes stored up in certain cells.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It will be possible for Columbia University to open its academic year at its new site on November 4th, though there may be some delay in certain of the laboratory courses. It is noteworthy that of the six buildings now erected, two are for general university purposes, a library and university hall (which at present contains only the powerhouse and gymnasium), while the four other buildings are for the sciences, Schermerhorn Hall for the natural sciences, Havermeyer Hall for chemistry, and halls for physics and engineering. These buildings for the sciences have been erected at a cost of over \$1,200,000, and demonstrate the importance of the place now occupied by science in a modern university.

At the opening exercises of Dartmouth College, President Tucker stated that the plans are well formulated for the proposed new physical laboratory, the result of the \$75,000 bequest of the late Charles T. Wilder, of Lebanon, N. H. The committee has set apart \$50,000 for its erection and \$20,000 for maintenance. Additional appropriations have been made for an observatory, foundations for which will be laid at once.

Of the colleges that opened last week, Dartmouth, Lafayette and Dickinson report increases

in the entering classes, which are 185, 106 and 60 respectively. The classes at Union and Beloit are smaller than usual.

THE Hon. William L. Wilson, formerly member of Congress and Postmaster-General, was inaugurated as President of Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., on September 15th. Addresses were made by President Gilman, Johns Hopkins University; Chancellor Kirkland, Vanderbilt University, and Professor Cameron, in the place of President Patton, Princeton University. President Wilson made an inaugural address.

THE Rev. James G. K. McClure, a Presbyterian clergyman, has been elected President of Lake Forest University.

At Union College Mr. Frank S. Thompson, A.B. (Princeton), has been appointed assistant in physics, and Dr. A. A. Tylor, A.B. (Lafayette) and Ph.D. (Columbia), instructor in biology.

DR. W. E. THOMSON has been appointed professor of physiology at Anderson's College, Glasgow.

PROFESSOR CARL FRIEDHEIM, of Berlin, has been appointed professor of inorganic chemistry in the University at Bern, and Dr. Rodet professor of bacteriology at the University at Lyons.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

TYPES IN NATURAL HISTORY AND NOMENCLATURE OF RODENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Three communications have recently appeared in SCIENCE, directly or indirectly relating to work of my own, and I would ask your permission to say a few words concerning them.

The first two are Mr. Charles Schuchert's paper on 'Types in Natural History', and Dr. Merriam's† critique on it, and it is to the latter I would first refer.

With characteristic emphasis Dr. Merriam scorns Mr. Schuchert's suggestions for further names to represent different classes of types, and incidentally speaks of 'several obsolete

*SCIENCE, V., p. 636, April 23, 1897.

†SCIENCE, V., p. 731, May 7, 1897.