public domain. Fortunately, the climate of southeastern Alaska is so humid that forest fires are rare and never very destructive, and reproduction is sure and rapid. These forests, therefore, even with American methods, will not soon or easily be destroyed; and here and to the southward, along the coast ranges and islands of British Columbia, through nine degrees of latitude from Cross Sound, at the north of Chicago Island, to the Straits of Fuca, is now the greatest continuous body of coniverous timber in the world, almost unmarked as yet by the axe, safe from fire and of easy access, from which the world will be able to draw great stores of material when the Redwoods and Douglas Spruces of the South have fallen, and the south-Atlantic and Gulf-shore pineries are only dim memories."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE attendance at the American colleges and universities will be larger this year than ever before. The numbers given at present are subject to revision, but nearly all institutions report the largest entrance classes ever recorded. At Harvard the Freshman class will be over 500. At Yale the academic Freshmen number about 350 (a slight decrease as compared with last year), and the Freshmen in the scientific department about 175. At Pennsylvania nearly 200 Freshmen were registered, about 35 more than last year. The entrance class at Princeton will number over 300.

THE colleges for women—Bryn Mawr, Vassar, Wellesley, Smith and others—also report an increased attendance. It is noteworthy that there are in the United States 139 colleges and universities exclusively for men and 162 exclusively for women.

IT is now stated that the estate of the late Henry M. Pierce will yield $750,000 to each of the five legatees, which include Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

BY the will of the late Dr. Antoine Ruppaner the Harvard Medical School will receive $10,000, to be called the Dr. Ruppaner Fund.

MR. H. H. HUNNEWELL has given $5,000 towards the endowment of the Surgical Laboratory of the Harvard Medical School.

THE Rev. Dr. Eliphalet Nott Potter, formerly President of Union College and of Hobart College, has accepted the presidency of the Cosmopolitan 'University' (Correspondence School).

DR. HANS REUSCH, director of the geological survey of Norway, has been appointed for 1897–98 to the Sturgis-Hooper professorship of geology in Harvard University, left vacant since the death of Professor J. D. Whitney a year ago. Dr. Reusch will lecture on Vulcanism during the first half year, treating volcanoes and eruptive rocks in general; earthquakes and movements of the earth's crust. In the second half year he will lecture on the Geology of Northern Europe, and its relations to general geology. The third hour of each week will be set apart for seminary work. In the spring Professor Reusch proposes to take part in the instruction of advanced students in the field.

IN addition to a number of assistants, the following instructors have been appointed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Carl H. Clark, S.B., in mechanical engineering; Frederick A. Hannah, S.B., in mechanical engineering; Charles M. Spofford, S.B., in civil engineering. The following promotions have also been made: Arthur A. Noyes, S.B., Ph.D., associate professor of organic chemistry; Frank A. Laws, S.B., assistant professor of electrical measurements; Harry M. Goodwin, S.B., Ph.D., assistant professor of physics.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

RESULTS FROM THE HIGHEST KITE FLIGHT.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Aided by a grant from the Hodgkins Fund of the Smithsonian Institution, the Blue Hill Observatory is endeavoring to obtain meteorological records in the free air at heights exceeding 10,000 feet, and on September 19th such records were obtained at the highest level which kites are known by the writer to have attained.

The flight in question was conducted without mishaps by my assistants, Messrs. Clayton, Fergusson and Sweetland. On the day mentioned, the sky was clear and the wind blew from the south in gusts of from 20 to 35 miles an hour. The Richard baro-thermo-hygrograph, which weighs three pounds and was suspended 130 feet below two large kites of Mr.