

"I will now remind you that 'every dog has his day. This is my day and the time is not far distant when your client will wish he had carried his tracks along with him. That you and he have run up against the wrong man is only a question of time. You can make the most of your opportunity and I will pursue the even tenor of my way.'"

Such occurrences are discouraging, even though it is certain that their duration will be but brief. We are of the opinion that it is the duty of the Geological Society of America, even though it should cost each member one-tenth of his time and of his income for one year, to see that the facts of the case are brought before the Legislature and the people of Missouri.

THE outgoing Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University stated in a valedictory address to the members of the Senate that the gifts to the museums and laboratories during the past year include a cast of the famous specimen of *Iguanodon bernissartensis* presented by his Majesty the King of the Belgians, a refrigerating machine for experimental purposes presented by Mr. T. B. Lightfoot, a valuable collection of dried plants presented by Mrs. C. Packe, a very important library of geological books presented by Professor Wiltshire, M.A., of Trinity College, who has on previous occasions shown himself to be a most generous benefactor to the University, and two collections of great historical interest presented by the family of the late Charles Darwin.

ACCORDING to the *Statist*, the yield of gold for 1896 was about £45,000,000, against an average of £21,738,000 for the period of 1881-90. For 1896 the production by fields was as follows: United States, £10,800,000; Australasia, £8,988,000; Transvaal, £8,604,000; India, £5,911,000; Russia and other countries, £10,697,000—or a total of £45,000,000. The grand aggregate of the gold production since 1850 inclusive is, in round figures, £1,163,000,000, or, approximately, 300,000,000 ounces of gold.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Academic Freshman class at Yale University is said by the New York *Evening Post* to number 58 less than last year, while there is an increase of 15 students in the Scientific School.

There is, this year, an increase of about 300 students at the University of Michigan, chiefly in the law department, and of over 100 at Columbia University. A decrease of about 50 students in the undergraduate department of Brown University is reported.

THE New York *Tribune* states that the University of Missouri receives \$23,023 from the estate of the late John C. Conley, under the operation of a law recently passed by the Legislature which provides that if a man dies leaving no father, mother or direct lineal descendant a certain per cent. of his estate, excluding any amount left for charitable or religious purposes, must go to the State University.

DR. R. C. CHRISTIE, formerly professor at Owens College, Manchester, has given the College the whole of his share in the residuary estate of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth, estimated at £50,000. The College has also received gifts of £20,000 for the erection of a physical laboratory and £6,000 for its maintenance and of £1,500 towards the erection of a museum.

THOSE who last winter objected to the action of Cornell University in deciding to follow the example of the great English and other American universities and award the degrees A.B. and A.M. for scientific as well as for classical studies probably do not read this JOURNAL. Otherwise we should like to call their attention to the fact that Cornell in its short history has conferred forty-seven kinds of degrees, and ask whether it is an advantage to increase or decrease the numbers of kinds of degrees awarded for liberal studies.

THE Board of Overseers of Harvard University have concurred with the president and fellows in their votes changing the title of Hugo Münsterberg from professor of experimental psychology to professor of psychology, and of William James from professor of psychology to professor of philosophy.

DR. WILLIAM S. CARTER, of the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected professor of physiology in the University of Texas.

DR. CHARLES W. HARGITT, professor of biology in the College of Liberal Arts of Syra-

cuse University, will have charge of the work in embryology in the College of Medicine.

DR. EDWIN F. NORTHRUP has resigned from the professorship of physics in the University of Texas. The students' paper of the University remarks: "During the brief thirteen years that the University of Texas has been in operation there have been no less than five professors in this school. Their tenure of office has been short, and, in the main, their departures abrupt."

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### RESIGNATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF LICK OBSERVATORY.

AFTER a continuous connection with the Lick Observatory for 23 years and a service at Mount Hamilton since 1888, I have terminated my official relations with the Observatory, to take effect on December 31, 1897. My address after October 1st will be as below:

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON., D. C.

##### THE BOSTON PLANS FOR A NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I wish to call your attention to an inexcusable piece of bad taste in the last number of *Garden and Forest*. That excellent journal was from its foundation edited by the late William A. Stiles, to whom the public park system of New York is so greatly indebted. It is, however, conducted, whatever that may mean, by Professor C. S. Sargent, director of the Arnold Arboretum. The last number of *Garden and Forest*, in an editorial notice of Mr. Stiles, gives as his crowning work the following:

"It was his forethought and technical knowledge which have modified and delayed the schemes of the men who in their zeal for a botanic garden are willing to deface, unnecessarily, Bronx Park, and could his life have been prolonged this most valuable and beautiful of all the rural possessions of the city might, perhaps, have been spared for the best enjoyment of the public."

It is well known that Professor Sargent's interference with the well matured and carefully prepared plans for the New York Botanical Garden, as enlarged upon in the daily press,

has lessened the public appreciation of an institution so important for the scientific and general welfare of the City. It is commonly reported here that Professor Sargent does not wish New York City to possess a botanic garden superior to the one directed by him. This report is doubtless incorrect, but it will certainly not be silenced by using an obituary notice of a friend in the manner indicated.

You will, I hope, excuse me from giving my name for publication, and will permit me to state that I am in no way connected with the New York Botanical Garden.

N. Y.

NEW YORK CITY,  
October 16, 1897.

##### SOURCE OF THE FAMOUS THETFORD LIMBURGITE.

NEARLY half a century ago Dr. Oliver Payson Hubbard, while a member of the faculty of Dartmouth College, discovered large boulders of olivine basalt in Thetford, Vt., and discussed their probable derivation from basaltic areas in Canada.

Some of these boulders have found their way as museum curiosities to Chicago, Washington, New York and New Haven. They are particularly noted for their large rounded masses of olivine and crystalline, grayish green, glassy pyroxene.

In 1894 Dr. E. O. Hovey presented to the scientific world, through the columns of the 'Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences,' valuable information concerning the petrography of these basaltic boulders and referred them to the limburgite division of the family.

Professor J. F. Kemp has commented upon the striking resemblance of olivine diabase to these boulders, and discussed the improbability of a meteoric origin.

It has constantly been conjectured that their source was to the northward, since Vermont is in a region of extensive glaciation from that direction, yet geological research had failed to reveal their origin until last August.

During the summer of 1896, while engaged in field work in stratigraphical geology, I encountered many dikes of diabase rich in olivine, and others of the same microscopical appearance