

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 Poyson 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