

or chemical work by the Carolinian Institution in Stockholm, for literature by the Academy in Stockholm, and for the propagation of peace by a committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian Parliament.

CHAS. D. WALCOTT, Director of the U. S. Geological Survey, will have, in the next issue of *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly*, an article on 'The Preservation of our Forests,' and President David Starr Jordan an article on 'The Evolution of the Mind.'

WITH the January number *The Journal of School Geography* has been enlarged to 40 pages, and the editor, Professor Richard E. Dodge, Teachers' College, New York, announces that it will be improved in several ways. Particular attention will hereafter be given to mathematical geography, elementary meteorology and commercial geography. Mr. Andrew J. Herbertson Collington, Scotland, has become associate editor for Great Britain.

THREE packages of yellow fever serum from Dr. J. Sanarelli, of the Institut de Hygiene Experimentale at Montevideo, have been received at New York, intended for Dr. Wyman, of the United States Marine Hospital service at Washington and for Dr. Doty. Part will be used in experiments made by Dr. Doty's assistant, Dr. C. B. Fitzpatrick, at the laboratory at Quarantine.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

AT a meeting of the Corporation of Yale University on January 13th it was decided to appoint a committee to prepare plans for the proper celebration, in October, 1901, of the bi-centennial anniversary of the granting of the charter to Yale College.

AT a special meeting of the Council of Columbia University, on January 13th, action was taken as authorized by the Board of Trustees, incorporating the Teachers' College as a professional school for the training of teachers. President Low will become President of the Teachers' College, but the Trustees of the College will be continued as an independent board, responsible for the financial administration of the College. The Teachers' College was founded in 1887, Professor Nicholas Murray

Butler, of Columbia University, being the first President. In 1893 the College was partially affiliated with Columbia University for educational purposes. The buildings of the College, erected at a cost of about \$1,000,000 on land given by Mr. George W. Vanderbilt, are adjacent to those of Columbia University and Barnard College. The foundation of a professional school for the training of teachers of the same rank as university schools for medicine and law is one of the most important advances ever made in educational methods.

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#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### A PROPOSED ADDITION TO PHYSIOGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE.

THE rocky mass of the earth, the lithosphere, is mantled in large part by formations whose particles or grains are loosely aggregated, either incoherent or feebly coherent. To these formations collectively Merrill has given the appropriate name *regolith* (stony mantle), a term approximately coördinate with lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere. It was not proposed until its need had come to be distinctly recognized, and I believe it will be promptly adopted in geology and physiography. But a companion term is equally needed. The lithosphere is composed of rock, the hydrosphere of water and the atmosphere of air; of what does the regolith consist? There is no compact name for its material, although surface geology and physical geography have found occasion to mention it so frequently and under so many relations that there are plenty of descriptive phrases. Lying above the firm rock, it is *superficial* or *surficial material*. Having been formed by the breaking up of rock, it is *disintegrated material*. Because destined eventually to coalesce as rock, it is *unconsolidated material*. As a substitute for these binomial terms I propose the word *discrete*.

The adjective *discrete* comes to us along with *discreet*, from the Latin *discretus*, separate. *Discreet* is now appropriated by a secondary meaning, wise, but *discrete* means only separate, incoherent, discontinuous. In converting it into a technical noun I propose to retain this adjective meaning and add the idea of stony