

Mr. W. Whittaker, President of the Geological Society. An illuminated address was presented in the name of the old students by Dr. R. D. Roberts and Mr. Strahan. Professor Hughes has also been presented with a loving-cup by his former students.

A BUST of the geologist Freiherr H. von Foulton, who was killed in the Solomon Islands in 1896, has been placed in the Geological Institute of the University of Vienna.

MAYOR VAN WYCK, of New York, has appointed Mr. Michael C. Murphy, a Tammany politician, to the presidency of the health board of the city.

THE Ninth International Congress of Hygiene and Demography will, as we have already announced, be opened at Madrid on April 10th and will be continued for one week. The exhibition of hygiene will, however, be open for three months. Scientific papers must be sent before March 15th. They may be written in Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, English or German, but must be accompanied with a short summary written either in Spanish or in French. The Spanish railways and steamship companies have made a reduction of 50 per cent. to all attending the Congress.

THE American Neurological Association will hold its twenty-fourth annual meeting on May 26, 27 and 28, 1898, in New York, at the Academy of Medicine.

THE Senate Committee on Commerce has authorized Senator Quay to report as a separate bill the amendment to the Sundry Civil Bill proposed by Senator Penrose in aid of the industrial exposition proposed to be held in Philadelphia in 1899. The bill appropriates \$200,000 for a government exhibit and provides for the admission of foreign articles free of customs duties.

APPROPRIATIONS have been proposed in the Massachusetts Legislature giving \$4,000 for a forest survey of the State and \$2,000 for a survey of the lakes and ponds.

It is reported that the Duke of the Abruzzi has had a conference with Captain Sverdrup on the subject of his projected expedition to the

Arctic regions. The Duke will leave next summer for Spitzbergen in order to explore the country, but the expedition will not start until 1899, and its first objective will be Franz Josef Land. Should the conditions of the ice be favorable, depôts will be established, and an attempt will be made to reach the Pole by means of sledges and dogs. In the event of this, however, proving impracticable, the expedition will confine itself to an exploration of Franz Josef Land. On the advice of Captain Sverdrup, the Duke will ask the Danish government for a supply of dogs from Greenland, as these are considered to be the best.

THE *Evening Post* reports that the great painter, Mr. G. F. Watts, is an associate of the Society for the Protection of Birds, and feels strongly about the fashion of using the plumage of birds for millinery purposes. He is now painting a picture representing an angel with bowed head and despairing figure bending over a marble tomb covered with birds' wings, while a spirit of evil grins below.

THE publishing house of G. T. H. Fischer, Cassel, announces several new additions to its series of zoological charts prepared under the supervision of the late Professor Rudolph Leuckart and Dr. Carl Chun.

Subscriptions to the fund being collected as a memorial to the late Edmund Drechsel should be sent to Professor Kronecker, Bern, not Berlin, as given in a recent issue of this JOURNAL.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE will of the late Amos R. Eno contains several public bequests, including \$50,000 to Amherst College.

MISS HELEN GOULD, New York, has given \$20,000 to Rutgers College.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has given \$50,000 for a technical school at Dumferline, Scotland.

DR. GEORGE S. FULLERTON has resigned the Vice-Provostship of the University of Pennsylvania. He will retain the professorship of philosophy, but will take a year's leave of

absence for research in Europe. Professor Fullerton never intended to retain the Vice-Provostship of the University, and only accepted the position while the University was being reorganized after the election of Provost Harrison.

PRESIDENT ANDREW S. DRAPER, of the University of Illinois, having declined the Superintendency of the schools of New York City, Dr. W. H. Maxwell, Superintendent of the Brooklyn schools, was elected Superintendent on March 15th.

Of the three travelling fellowships annually awarded at Bryn Mawr College, two have been awarded in the sciences—the President's fellowship to Miss L. R. Laird, a student of physics, and the Mary E. Garrett European fellowship to Miss F. Peebles, a student of biology.

MR. D. E. O. LOVITT has been elected assistant professor of mathematics in the John C. Green School of Science, of Princeton University.

PROFESSOR P. HENSEL, Strassburg, has been called to an assistant professorship of philosophy newly established at Heidelberg.

DR. GEORGE TREILLE has been appointed to the newly established chair of colonial hygiene in the University of Brussels.

THE University of Göttingen will again this year offer, during the Easter holidays, courses in science for teachers. No charge is made for attendance on these courses.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LONGEVITY OF SCIENTIFIC MEN.

PROFESSOR EDWARD S. HOLDEN contributes to the last number of the *Cosmopolitan* an article 'On the Choice of a Profession: Science 'intended to be' of distinct use to young men and women of the *Cosmopolitan* University.' In the course of the article occurs the following:

Among the advantages of following science as a profession we must certainly reckon its undoubted tendency to prolong the lives of its votaries. It is not a little remarkable that men of science, astronomers among them, are particularly long lived. The average longevity of men is about thirty-three years. Some one has had the patience to determine the aver-

age age of some seventeen hundred astronomers and mathematicians, and it turns out to be sixty-four years! That is, astronomers live nearly twice as long as men in general. * * * I think no one can fail to be surprised at the foregoing statistics.

Professor Holden is certainly right as to the surprise likely to be awakened by these statistics. An exclamation mark or a question mark would perhaps be sufficient comment for scientific men; but for the benefit of the young persons of the *Cosmopolitan* 'University' it may be explained that none of the 1,700 eminent astronomers and mathematicians died when they were infants. We do not know the average age at which work was done that would entitle a man to be included in this list of astronomers and mathematicians, but if it were forty years, we know that the expectation of life for men of that age is (according to tables of the Institute of Actuaries) 27.4 years. The average age at death of ordinary men would then be 67.4 years and of the astronomers and mathematicians, 64 years.

J. MCK. C.

THE REVIVAL OF ALCHEMY—A REJOINDER.

IN SCIENCE of December 10th Dr. H. Carington Bolton makes personal mention of me and inferentially describes me as being an 'educated charlatan' and as having 'cracked brains.' He also says, inferentially, that I belong to a class of persons who 'wear their feather in their heads,' an expression that is not very clear to me, but I suppose implies something more and worse than the feat ascribed in popular song to Yankee Doodle. But, however, this may be, I presume that, as a matter of even-handed justice, space will be accorded me in SCIENCE for the following reply:

1. Dr. Bolton's characterization of me is either a simple expression of his opinion or a conclusion from premisses.

2. Opinions need to be weighed before acceptance. Dr. Bolton says that "Sir Isaac Newton dabbled with furnaces and chemicals in true hermetic style; and Leibnitz showed the courage of his convictions by acting as Secretary of an Alchemical Society in Germany," and, further, that "so eminent a chemist as Sir Humphry Davy did not hesitate to affirm