the study of practical botany. According to the London *Times*, reports have been presented to the committee on the educational side of the question by Dr. Garnett and Dr. Kimmins. The following suggestions were contained in these reports: 1. That a very valuable experiment could be conducted on a scale sufficiently wide if, in each of three parks, about 20 rods of ground were devoted to the cultivation, for school purposes, of hardy typical plants belonging to 20 natural orders. 2. The beds should be arranged near the paths, one bed being devoted to each order. They should differ in size, the largest being a little under 500 feet square, and the smallest about 100 feet square in area, so that the average of the 20 beds would be approximately one rod. 3. The specimens selected should be such as are suitable for growth, and each should be labelled with its common name and its Latin, or systematic name. 4. Labels giving the names and natural orders should be attached to the more important trees, shrubs and plants throughout the parks selected. 5. A botanical guide to the parks selected should be published under the superintendence of the Technical Education Board and the Parks Committee jointly. 6. Teachers holding printed orders from the Technical Education Board should be able to obtain from the superintendent in each park such specimens as might be required for botanical study in the schools, so far as they could be applied without detriment to the specimens. In a report upon the matter the Parks and Open Spaces Committee adopt these suggestions, and, putting them in the form of recommendations, will shortly submit them to the County Council for approval. They point out that some further suggestions were made, but they thought it would be better in the first instance to deal with the subject quite in the sense of an experiment, and if, later on, it should prove to be resulting advantageously to the schools, possibly the arrangements might be extended to the cultivation of important types of the lower orders of plants, such as fungi, mosses, ferns, etc., and facilities might be afforded for the study of aquatic plants. The chief officer of the Parks Department reported that the proed arrangements were quite practicable at any of the larger parks, but that some expenditure would be necessary. Upon that point the chief officer has been instructed to submit a report. It is proposed that the experimental beds shall be formed at Battersea-park, Ravenscourt-park and Finsbury-park.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE will of the late Jacob Tome gives the residue of his estate, estimated at $3,000,000, to the Jacob Tome Institute of Port Deposit, Md., which during his lifetime he had founded and richly endowed.

THE Maryland Senate has passed a bill appropriating $50,000 a year for two years to Johns Hopkins University. It is to be hoped that the bill will be passed by the House, which, as we stated last week, rejected the bill appropriating $100,000 to the University.

HON. CHESTER W. KINGSLEY has given the Worcester Academy $25,000 to complete the sum needed to defray the expenses of the new Kingsley Laboratory, to the dedication of which we referred recently.

IN a letter to the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, Charles B. Rouss, of New York, says: "I hereby send you my check for $10,000. Having been informed that the $25,000 previously donated by me was not sufficient to complete the physical laboratory building which bears my name, and being unwilling to permit anyone else to have part in a work which I consider to be my special privilege, I desire so much of the sum sent as may be needed to be used in liquidating the balance due on the cost of the building, the remainder to be added to the equipment fund."

THE Trustees of the Teachers' College, Columbia University, announce the foundation of five fellowships of the value of $500 yearly; and carrying the privilege of free tuition, and ten scholarships of $150 a year, each to be awarded annually; to be tenable for one year, and to be designated respectively as Trustees' Fellowships and Trustees' Scholarships. These fellowships and scholarships will be awarded to applicants who give evidence of special fitness to undertake courses of higher study and original investigation in education. Two new scholarships

for undergraduates are announced, viz., the Charlotte Louisa Williams Scholarship, founded by Mrs. Peter M. Bryson and Miss Grace H. Dodge, which is tenable for one year, yields $150 a year, and is for women, and the Earle Scholarship for men, also awarded annually, and worth $150 a year.

Mr. William Houldsworth has given the University of Glasgow property yielding an income of £150 a year for a fellowship in physics. *Nature* states that Mr. Houldsworth has taken this method of showing his interest in the welfare of the University and the advancement of science, and his recognition of the distinguished services rendered to scientific research by Lord Kelvin during a professorship of fifty years.

Magdalen College, Oxford, will award, in October, a fellowship in medical science.

The seventh summer session of Cornell University will be held from July 5 to August 13, 1898. An announcement of the courses of instruction, just issued, shows that fourteen departments of study will be represented, including mathematics, physics, chemistry, botany and experimental engineering.

According to the daily papers Mr. James M. Davis, of St. Louis, has 'bought' Garfield University at Wichita, Kan., and will present it to the Society of Friends.

The London University Commission Bill has been read for the second time in the House of Lords.

Professor William W. Birdsall, now Principal of Friends' Central School of Philadelphia, has been elected President of Swarthmore College, to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of President Charles De Garmo, lately appointed to the position of head of the pedagogical department of Cornell University.

Chancellor C. M. Ellinwood, of the Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Neb., has resigned, and Dr. D. W. C. Huntington has been made Chancellor temporarily.

Dr. W. J. Simpson, late health officer of Calcutta, has been appointed professor of hygiene in King's College, London.

King's College, Cambridge, has elected to professional fellowships Mr. James Alfred Ewing, M.A., F.R.S., professor of mechanism and applied mechanics, and Mr. A. A. Kanthack, M.A., professor of pathology.

The professorship of surgery at Cambridge University has been suspended for the present and a reader will be appointed. The lectureship in geography will be made a readership, the Council of the Royal Geographical Society having continued the annual grant of £150 for a term of five years. To this grant the University adds £50.

Professor Bastian has retired from the chair of clinical medicine in University College, London, after a service of twenty years.

Mme. Madeleine Lemaire, the flower painter, has been appointed professor of botanical drawing at the Jardin des Plantes, Paris.

Dr. K. Groos, of Giessen, has been appointed professor of philosophy at Basel.

Dr. Ph. Lenard, assistant professor of physics in the University of Heidelberg, has been called to the chair of physics at Kiel.

Dr. A. Sauer, docent in mineralogy, and Dr. Bela Haller, docent in zoology, have been promoted to assistant professorships in the University of Heidelberg.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LONGEVITY OF SCIENTIFIC MEN.

In the *Cosmopolitan Magazine* for March, I quoted from the *Popular Science Monthly* of May, 1884, certain statistics with regard to the longevity of astronomers from Dr. A. B. Lancaster, who derived his data from the records of 1741 astronomers as given in Houzeau and Lancaster's 'Bibliographie générale de l'astronomies.' Lancaster's figures agree, in a general way, with those given by Quetelet in his 'Anthropometrie,' and with those given by Riccardi in his 'Biblioteca mathematica Italiana.' In Science for March 18th the editor objects to Dr. Lancaster's conclusions and points out what he supposes to be an error of method on Lancaster's part. In fact, his own method is identical with Lancaster's. Their data are quite different, however. The difference in results depends entirely upon the difference of data. Dr. Lancaster assumes that an astronomer 'begins his career,' and deserves