

THE report of the Joint Select Committee of the British House of Lords and House of Commons on electrical energy (generating stations and supply) has been published in a Blue Book.

A COMMISSION has been appointed to revise the United States patent laws.

As we have already stated, the Albert Medal of the Society of Arts has this year been awarded to Professor Bunsen. At the annual meeting of the Society held recently, says *Nature*, the work of Professor Bunsen was referred to by the Council in the following words: "Amongst the numerous and important scientific discoveries which have rendered the name of Bunsen famous wherever science is valued, perhaps the most striking is the one in which he was associated with his distinguished colleague, Professor Kirchhoff, viz., spectrum analysis, a discovery which has shed a new and unexpected light on the composition of terrestrial matter, and has enabled us to obtain a distinct knowledge of the chemical composition of sun and stars. The contributions which Bunsen has made in the application of chemistry and physics to the arts and manufactures are of the utmost value, and their importance may be measured by two out of many instances. The Bunsen battery was, until the introduction of the dynamo, the cheapest source of electricity; the Bunsen gas-burner, by which a non-luminous, smokeless, but highly heated flame is obtained, is now not only indispensable in all laboratory work, but is used for heating purposes in thousands of houses and manufactories, and for illumination, by the incandescent system, in millions of lamps. Beyond these Bunsen's contributions to the sciences of chemistry and physics have been of the highest importance; but, perhaps, the greatest benefit which he has conferred, through a long life devoted to the advancement of science, has been the influence which he has exerted as a teacher.

stroyed by fire last March. In addition to this gift instruments and machinery to the value of \$30,000 have been given to furnish the building.

MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER has subscribed \$10,000 toward the special fund now being collected for Barnard College.

CARROLL COLLEGE, of Waukesha, Wis., has received from Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Voorhees, of New Jersey, a gift of \$50,000 on condition that \$50,000 more be subscribed by October 1st. \$6,000 towards the latter sum has already been subscribed.

THE University of Paris has instituted a degree of 'Doctor' without any qualifying word. The new degree is open to foreigners and the tests are a thesis in French or Latin and a few questions on subjects selected by the candidates.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### MIocene EDENTATES.

IN the *American Naturalist* for December, 1886 (p. 1044), Professor Cope described a number of osseous scuta and toe bones as those of a 'giant armadillo from the Miocene of Kansas,' under the name *Caryoderma snovianum*. The type specimen is now in the University of Kansas Museum. The scuta and toe bones are identical in all respects with another series recently removed from the carapace of a large tortoise from the same formation in Kansas, the Loup Fork. The tortoise is provisionally placed in the genus *Xerobates*, and is specifically probably identical with *Testudo undata* Cope. The error was not an extraordinary one on the part of Cope, since the dermal ossicles are peculiar for a tortoise. Its rectification, however, is important, since this reference was, I believe, the only one of the edentates to the Miocene of North America.

S. W. WILLISTON.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, July 16, 1898.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It was stated in a recent issue of *SCIENCE* that Mr. George A. Fowler had rebuilt the engineering building of the University of Kansas, which was struck by lightning and de-

#### SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

*La fatigue intellectuelle*. Par A. BINET et V. HENRI. Paris, Schleicher Frères. 1898. Pp. 336. (Bibliothèque de Pédagogie et de Psychologie.)