

At the Leland Stanford, Jr., University Mr. F. Atheling has been appointed assistant in mathematics and Mr. F. B. Baum assistant in electrical engineering.

THE corporation of Brown University will hold its annual meeting on September 8th. A successor to President Andrews will probably not be selected, but a committee will be appointed to consider the question. The report now goes that the Rev. Edward Judson, pastor of a Baptist church in New York city, is likely to be selected. The President of Brown University must be a Baptist.

MR. J. A. JOHNSTON has been appointed professor of physics and mechanics at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester.

DRS. LENK AND FLEISCHMANN, associate professors of mineralogy and zoology, respectively, at Erlangen, have been promoted to full professorships. Dr. Heim has been appointed professor of botany in the Agricultural College at Vienna.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

BASIL VALENTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The very interesting article by Mr. C. S. Pierce in your issue of August 12th reminds me that several years ago I bought, in Brentford, England, a Latin edition of the 'Triumph-Wagen des Antimonii,' published in 1646. As Mr. Pierce makes no mention of this edition, it may possibly be worth while to call attention to it. The title-page reads as follows:

"CURRUS TRIUMPHALIS ANTIMONII: FRATRIS BASILII VALENTINI Monachi Benedictini. OPUS *Antiquioris Medicinæ & Philosophiæ Hermeticæ studiosis dicatum.* E Germanico in Latinum Versum opera, studio & sumptibus Petri Joannis Fabri Doctoris Medici Mompeliensis. *Et notis perpetuis ad Marginem appositis ab eodem illustratum.* TOLOSÆ. Apud PETRUM BOSC, M.DC.XLVI."

Dr. Faber dedicates the book to the 'illustrissimo ac reverendissimo D.D. Carolo de Montchal, Archiepiscopo Tolosano Regis Christianissimi Consiliano Meritissimo.' He also contributes an introduction. "The book was the

property of one Samuel Whitlock, who has made numerous marginal notes.

"The existence of this edition, while proving nothing, appears to show that about forty years after the original publication no doubt was entertained as to the authorship of the work."

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

MESILLA PARK, NEW MEXICO, August 16th.

#### SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

*Fossil Plants for Students of Botany and Geology.*

By A. C. SEWARD, M.A., F.G.S. With Illustrations. Vol. I. Cambridge. 1898. Pp. xviii + 452. Cambridge Natural Science Manuals. Biological Series.

There has been for many years an increasing demand for a work on fossil plants that shall be at once comprehensive, scientific, and sufficiently popular for the lay student. Balfour's 'Introduction to the Study of Palæontological Botany,' Edinburgh, 1872, was too elementary, and was restricted to British material. Saporta's 'Monde des plantes avant l'apparition de l'homme,' Paris, 1879, comes nearer to the ideal, but it is now old and out of date in view of the rapid advance of the science. 'L'évolution du règne végétal,' by Saporta and Marion, in three small volumes, 1881-1885, is much more special and somewhat popular and an exceedingly suggestive work. Count Solms-Laubach's 'Einleitung in die Paläophytologie,' Leipzig, 1887, is the work of a specialist, and proceeding professedly from the botanical standpoint does not claim to cover the whole field, and is really a series of special investigations, largely confined to internal structure, and arranged in no systematic order (*e. g.*, the 'Cycadeæ' are treated before the ferns, and the Calamariæ before the Lepidophytes). The English translation of this work, published four years after the German edition, contained no revision, although there had been great advance during this interval in solving the problems discussed.\* Sir William Dawson's 'Geological History of Plants,' New York, International Scientific Series, 1888, is little more than the geological history of the Devonian of Canada, although a pleasant book. The second part of Zittel's

\* See SCIENCE, Vol. XVIII., No. 464, New York, December 25, 1891, pp. 360-361.