

THE New York State College of Forestry has secured its 30,000-acre demonstration area of Adirondack forest. The terms of sale are agreed on, and only a survey delays the formal turning over of the property. The tract lies in Franklin county, to the south of Saranac Lake, and partly upon the lower slope of Mt. Seward. It contains some virgin forest, some from which lumbermen have taken the choice timber, and some from which forest fires have taken all the timber. The College can, therefore, at the start demonstrate all sides of forestry, from planting bare tracts to lumbering and getting the logs to market.

THE Ludwig Institute courses of free lectures are now being given on the evenings of Mondays and Thursdays at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. Dr. Edward J. Nolan has given two lectures on the literature of natural history. Mr. Witmer Stone and Professor Henry A. Pillsbury are at present giving courses respectively on vertebrate zoology and on the oyster and the clam. After Christmas Dr. Benjamin Sharp will give a course on comparative anatomy and physiology, Dr. Henry Skinner a course on entomology, Mr. Stewardson Brown a course on botany and Dr. Seneca Egbert a course on hygiene.

A CABLEGRAM to the New York *Evening Post* states that Mr. George Murray's deep-sea expedition, to the plans of which we recently referred, has completed its work in the North Atlantic. Its main object was to obtain further information regarding the vertical range of life in the sea, especially to test Professor Agassiz's theory that the intermediate depths of ocean are uninhabited, life being confined to the uppermost 500 fathoms and the lowest 100 fathoms. Depths of 1,370 and 1,835 fathoms were reached, samples of typical globigerina ooze being brought up from the latter. The full bearing of the results of the expedition must await many months of sorting and cataloguing of collections, but the general impression of the members of the expedition is that the Agassiz theory will not be maintained.

A SPECIAL despatch from Yeniseisk, on the river Yenissi, in eastern Siberia, announces the arrival at the mouth of the river of an expedition that

had gone in search of Herr Andrée, the aeronaut. The expedition was wrecked while crossing from the delta of the river Lena to the river Olenek, which flows into the Arctic Ocean southwest of Bennett and Delong Island, but managed to reach an uninhabited island about 120 miles from the mouth of the Olenek. The party was ice-bound for seventeen days before it was succored.

M. THIBEAUT, Chargé d'Affaires of France, has notified Secretary Hay that the French government is about to adopt precautionary measures against the introduction from this country of the San José scale, and that decrees will be issued prohibiting the importation of trees, shrubs and plants from the United States and requiring an inspection of all fruits, fresh and dried, at the point of landing in France.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Lawrence Scientific School, Harvard University, has received \$10,000 from Mr. J. H. Jennings, of the class of '77, for the establishment of a scholarship. The scholarship for the current year goes to Mr. T. F. Sanborn.

JAMES STILLMAN, of New York, has given \$50,000 to Harvard College to cover the cost of land and buildings for a projected Harvard Infirmary, which will bear the name of the donor. In addition, Mr. Stillman will contribute \$2,500 annually for four years.

THE will of the late Charles P. Wilder, of Wellesley Hills, bequeathes \$102,000 to Mount Holyoke College, and the trustees of Wellesley College announce a gift of \$50,000 made by Mr. Wilder before his death. No conditions are attached to the gift.

THE Catholic University of Washington has received the information that by the will of Daniel T. Leahy, of Brooklyn, it receives \$10,000. No instructions accompany the bequest.

WE have been able to record recently two important gifts to the University of Cincinnati, including the gift of a library building by Mr. Asa Van Wormer. The University has now been presented by Mr. William A. Proctor with the library of Mr. Robert Clarke, containing 6,704 volumes valued at over \$50,000.

A FUND of \$100,000 is being raised by the trustees and friends of Oberlin, the income from which is to be applied to the reduction of the term bills of needy students. About one-tenth of this amount has already been collected.

THE Commission appointed under the University of London Act, 1898, consisting of Lord Davey (Chairman), the Bishop of London, Sir William Roberts, Sir Owen Roberts, Professor Jebb, Professor Michael Foster and Mr. E. H. Busk, with Mr. Bailey Saunders as Secretary, has commenced its sittings.

THE Montreal correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* states that according to present arrangements the formal opening of the new chemistry and mining building at McGill University will take place on December 20th. There is a possibility, however, that an earlier date may be selected in order to meet the convenience of Lord Strathcona, who wishes to be in Scotland for Christmas day. The Governor-General and the Countess of Minto will be present. The authorities of McGill University have been notified of the loss of between \$3,000 and \$4,000 worth of chemical apparatus intended for the new chemical laboratories at the University. The goods were shipped by the ill-fated *Westmeath*, which was lost at sea a short time ago.

DR. JOHN HENRY BARROWS has been elected to the Presidency of Oberlin College. This action was taken by the trustees of Oberlin on Tuesday, November 29th, and the vote was unanimous. Dr. Barrows is widely known as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago, and as the one who pushed the Parliament of Religions at the World's Fair through to its successful end. During the last two years he has been lecturing in Calcutta, India, on the Haskell lectureship of the University of Chicago. Definite word has not yet been received as to his acceptance, but the trustees had assurance that he would accept, before the action was taken.

THE Normal College, New York City, has adopted courses of study by which the students may receive academic degrees. The members of the faculties concerned with the sciences are

as follows: Professor Joseph A. Gillette, analytical geometry; Professor Burgess, biology and geology; Emily I. Conant, Ph.D., psychology, and Isabel Camp, Ph.D., pedagogics.

THE Council of King's College, London, have appointed Mr. Ernest Wilson, M.I.E.E., professor of electrical engineering in succession to the late Professor Hopkinson.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

A SELF-READJUSTING 'COHERER.'

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Van Gulik has shown [*Wied. Ann.*, No. 9.] that, when an oscillating electric discharge takes place across a minute gap between the ends of two fine platinum wires, the ends of the wires are drawn together and remain clinging together after the discharge has ceased.

Upon repeating some of his experiments in a modified form, I am led to the conclusion that such adherence does not always result if the gap be between dissimilar metals.

Advantage may be taken of this to construct a self-readjusting 'coherer.' If a Branly tube be filled with a mixture of tin and aluminium filings it acts normally in so far that, when subjected to the influence of electric waves, its resistance is greatly diminished. When the radiation has ceased, however, its resistance again rises, unaided by any tapping back. A similar result obtains, though the reaction is usually more sluggish, with a pile of alternate disks of aluminium and tin foil.

A. E. LAWRENCE.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
November 19, 1898.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON AN APPLE CANCKER.

FROM observations made since the publication of the article 'An Apple Canker' in *SCIENCE* for October 28, 1898, it seems highly probable that *Sphaeropsis malorum*, Peck, is not only parasitic on the wood of the apple, but on the wood of pear and quince as well. It would, therefore, seem that a further note on the subject will not be out of place.

In the spring of 1898 specimens of blighted apple twigs were received. It was not determined at the time what was the cause of the