

with the disease. For illustrative purposes in class rooms or elsewhere it forms one of the most striking examples of the effects produced by a bacterial plant disease. Shoots the size of a lead pencil or a little larger are cut from pear trees, and after being washed in a clean water their upper ends are cut in a slanting way with a sharp sterilized knife. The shoots are then placed in a glass containing water, with the slanting ends free. The glass and its contents are now set in a plate or dish containing water, and a bell jar or large beaker placed over them in such a way that the rim is immersed in the water in the plate. This insures a saturated atmosphere and other conditions unfavorable to the shoots, but favorable to the germs themselves. Infections with pure cultures of the blight bacillus on the slanting cut surfaces of the shoots begin to show as beautiful, pearly-white, bead-like colonies in from 36 to 48 hours, and as the disease progresses, which it does more or less rapidly under varying conditions of heat, the changes in the host and parasite may be easily watched.

THE new *Turbinia*, of 220 feet in length and 330 tons displacement, is, as we learn from the *London Times*, in an advanced state of construction at Ellswick, and hopes are being entertained of her being tried in two months from the present time. The modifications found to be desirable after the exhaustive trials of her predecessor are considerable. The new vessel has eight propellers on four shafts, instead of the original *Turbinia's* three shafts and nine propellers. Her 'going-astern' arrangements are far in advance of those of the pioneer boat, whose extreme speed caused great excitement in the Solent at the time of the Naval Review of 1897.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR, of Vassar College, has declined the call to the presidency of Brown University.

MR. A. E. H. LOVE, F.R.S., Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and University lecturer in mathematics, has been appointed Sedleian professor of natural philosophy in succession to the late Professor Bartholomew Price.

MR. A. W. HILL has been appointed demonstrator in botany in Cambridge University.

ROLLINS A. EMERSON, of Washington, D. C. who was elected to the chair of horticulture in the University of Nebraska in June, 1898, assumed the duties of the position March 1st. After resigning his position in the Division of Experiment Stations in the Department of Agriculture, he spent some time in study in Cornell University before taking up his new duties.

DR. H. E. ANNETT has been appointed demonstrator of tropical pathology in the newly-founded school of tropical diseases in Liverpool. Both Edinburgh and Aberdeen have taken steps to establish lectureships on the diseases of tropical climates.

THE chair of natural history at Aberdeen, vacant by the death of Professor Nicholson, will, it is expected, be divided, and professorships of geology and zoology will be established.

THE late Mrs. Martha S. Pomeroy has bequeathed to Wellesley College \$60,000 for the erection of a dormitory, and also the residue of her estate.

WE are also glad to record the following gifts and bequests: Miss Maria Hopper has given \$10,000 to Bryn Mawr College for the foundation of a scholarship. Syracuse University has received \$5,000 from the heirs of H. H. Crary, of Binghamton, in accordance with the wishes he had expressed. The University of North Carolina has been given \$15,000 by Mr. Julian S. Carr. Swarthmore College has received \$5,000 by the will of the late Daniel Underhill.

THE late Professor Rutherford has bequeathed to Edinburgh University his valuable medical library and his collection of physiological and microscopical specimens.

ON the fifteenth of February the University of Nebraska celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. It has been the custom for many years to observe 'Charter Day' as a holiday, and to have parades, military exercises, addresses, etc., and for several years degrees have been conferred upon such students as completed their work at this time. On the present occasion seven students received the bachelor's degree and two

the master's degree. The University address was given by Dr. A. F. Nightingale, Superintendent of High Schools, Chicago. During the evening exercises Governor Poynter made the welcome announcement that he had that morning signed the 'University Revenue Bill' and that it was now the law of the State. This bill is one in which all the friends of the University were much interested. It provides first for the classification and handling of the funds of the University, as follows: The permanent endowment fund, the temporary University fund, the University cash fund, the United States Morrill fund and the agricultural experiment station fund, and requires that the State Treasurer shall be the custodian of all University funds. The second and by far the most important provision is that by which the University tax is increased from three-eighths of a mill to one mill on each dollar of valuation of the 'grand assessment roll' of the State. This will place a much larger sum in the hands of the Regents of the University and will enable them to plan for larger things in the future. It is one of the most important acts of any Legislature in Nebraska in its bearing upon higher education.

WE hope that the following item printed in the San Francisco *Call* is correct: "Three measures for the benefit of Stanford University have been presented in the California Senate. They are in the form of amendments to the political code, allowing corporations formed for educational purposes to accept gifts and bequests. When the bills finally become laws Mrs. Stanford stands ready to turn over her own personal fortune of more than \$5,000,000 to the college, and Governor Stanford's brother, who has made a fortune in Australia, will turn over in installments nearly \$15,000,000 more. This vast sum, with the present funds at the disposal of the college, will place it on a financial standing far beyond its competitors. Under the present provisions of the codes an educational institution cannot accept a gift or bequest. It was the intent of the law to prevent certain eleemosynary institutions from securing possession of large tracts of land and sums of money, and hold them, with no benefit to anyone, and so when it was desired

to endow the University with all the Stanford millions it was found to be impossible to do so under the laws of the State. It was about a year ago that the Australian Stanford first broached the subject of adding his millions to those of his brother. It had always been Governor Stanford's wish that his childless and kinless brother should follow his example regarding the University, and a year ago it was decided to bring the two fortunes together."

THE annual report of President Eliot, of Harvard University for 1897, is, as usual, an educational document of great importance. With the appended reports of the deans of the faculties and schools and the directors of the scientific establishments it contains 322 pages, and the report of the Treasurer is given in much detail, occupying 89 pages. Among the subjects considered is President Eliot's favorite plan of reducing the College course to three years, it being pointed out that more than one-third of the students do practically complete the work required in this time. It is noted that men of high scholarship are fully equal to others in physical development, as shown by the gymnasium records. President Eliot finds that during the past twenty-seven years the number of members of the faculty has increased more rapidly than the number of students and that the average ages of the members of the faculty has decreased by less than one year. The instructors of the first three classes are considerably older than formerly, while the instructors of the senior class are younger. The average age of the Harvard instructor is about forty years. During the year the requirements for admission to Harvard College and the Lawrence Scientific School were revised in a manner favorable to the sciences. The text-book study of physics and astronomy is omitted and four new subjects are offered, namely, astronomy, physiology, meteorology and anatomy, with physiology and hygiene. No reason is given for not allowing zoology or botany to be elected, yet these are perhaps the sciences which can be best taught in the ordinary preparatory schools. The terms of admission to the Lawrence Scientific School will, we are glad to learn, gradually be raised to substantial equality with those of of the College.