

Dewar, three lectures on the atmosphere; Mr. Lewis F. Day, three lectures on embroidery; Professor L. C. Miall, two lectures on water weeds; Mr. Louis Dyer, three lectures on Machiavelli; Mr. W. L. Brown, two lectures on 'To Iceland in Search of Health'; Mr. Edgar F. Jacques, three lectures on 'The Music of India and the East, and its Influence on the Music of Europe' (with musical illustrations). The Friday evening meetings will be resumed on April 14th, when a discourse will be delivered by Professor A. W. Rücker on 'Earth Currents and Electric Traction.' Succeeding discourses will probably be given by Dr. F. W. Mott, Professor C. A. Carus Wilson, Dr. W. J. Russell, Professor T. Preston, the Bishop of Bristol, Sir William Martin Conway, Mr. H. G. Wells and others.

THE Belgian Royal Academy, according to *Nature*, proposes the following subjects for essays in competition for gold medals of value 600 francs each, to be awarded in 1900. The essays are to be sent to the Secretary before August 1, 1900, each bearing a motto, and written in French or Flemish. Contrary to the usual custom, five subjects instead of three have been selected in each of the two departments of mathematical and physical science and of natural science. The mathematical and physical questions refer to: (1) critical phenomena in physics; (2) viscosity of liquids; (3) the carbon derivatives of an element whose combinations are little known; (4) the history and theory of variation of latitude; (5) the algebra and geometry of  $n$ -linear forms where  $n > 3$ . The questions in natural science refer to: (1) the geological formations at Comblain au Pont, and whether these are Devonian or Carboniferous; (2) the physical modifications produced in minerals by pressure; (3) the organization and development of the platoda; (4) the presence of a nucleus in the Schizophyta; (5) the Devonian flora of Belgium.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

##### ASSISTANTS IN PHYSIOLOGY IN HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL.

Two of the four positions offered by the Harvard Medical School to properly qualified men desirous of training in physiological research

and in the management of large laboratory classes in experimental physiology are not yet filled for the next collegiate year. Holders of these positions give more than half the day to research. The remaining time is spent during the first four months in learning laboratory methods and during the last four months in directing the laboratory work of the medical students, two hundred of whom work from two to three hours daily for sixteen weeks in experimental physiology. The fundamental experiments in physiology done by two hundred men working at one time present every variety of results and impart a training in observation and administration not to be acquired in other ways.

Much too may be learned by association; from six to ten men are constantly engaged in research in the laboratory of physiology, and in the departments of anatomy, histology, pathology, physiology and physiological chemistry, all of which have their laboratories in the medical school building, are more than thirty instructors. No charge of any kind is made, either for the training in physiological research and in teaching or for the use of animals and other material. Four of the eight investigations already made by holders of these positions have appeared in the *American Journal of Physiology*, and the others will be published shortly.

In addition to these opportunities the school gives each assistant four hundred dollars for superintending the class work in experimental physiology three hours daily during sixteen weeks.

Applications for these positions should be made to Dr. H. P. Bowditch, Harvard Medical School, 688 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

#### GENERAL.

THE following gifts and bequests to educational institutions have been made since our last issue: \$50,000 to Oberlin College for a chemical laboratory; \$8,000 to Vassar College by the will of Mrs. Luther Elthing for the founding of a scholarship; \$6,000 from Miss Emily H. Bourne for the establishment of scholarships in Barnard College; \$10,000 to the Catholic University of Washington by the will of Miss Mary Moran, and a conditional gift of

\$30,000 to Yankton College, S. D., from D. K. Pearson.

FOREIGN journals report that the late W. J. Astrakoff has bequeathed to the University of Moscow a sum of a million roubles, on condition that it shall be expended upon the foundation of a 'Moscow University for Women,' with three faculties—mathematics, medicine and natural science. He requires that it shall be placed under the direct administration of the Ministry of Public Education and the program correspond exactly with that of the University for men.

THE Mechanical Hall of the University of West Virginia was destroyed by fire on March 4th. The building was insured for \$28,000, and the loss beyond this sum is not great. The building will be immediately replaced.

THE present state of affairs in the Russian universities is extremely serious. Not only has the University at St. Petersburg been closed for some time, but similar conditions exist at Moscow, Kieff, Kharkoff, Odessa, Kasan, Tomsk and Warsaw, and in most of the technical institutes. More than 30,000 young men who will soon form an important part of the intellectual class in Russia are affected. The troubles began by a demonstration against the Rector of the University of St. Petersburg, which was followed by an encounter with the police in which Cossack whips were used upon the students. The Russian government appears to sympathize to a certain extent with the students, and an investigation has been ordered.

THE statement in the daily press to the effect that Dr. J. L. Wortmann has been elected by the Yale corporation professor of paleontology and Curator of the Peabody Museum is incorrect. It is, however, probable that the work in paleontology will be in some way divided between Professor C. E. Beecher, of Yale University, and Dr. J. L. Wortmann.

MR. J. ARTHUR THOMPSON has been appointed professor of natural history in the University of Aberdeen in succession to the late Professor Nicholson.

DR. ROBERT MUIR has been elected to the vacant professorship of pathology in the University of Glasgow. Dr. Muir was last year

called from a lectureship at Edinburgh to the professorship of pathology at St. Andrews. He has published important contributions especially on the pathology of the blood and of the bone-marrow.

MR. W. A. MURRILL has been appointed Assistant Cryptogamic Botanist of the Cornell University Experiment Station for one year, during the absence, in Europe, of Dr. B. M. Duggar. Mr. Murrill is a graduate of the Washington and Lee University, and of the Virginia Agricultural College. He entered upon graduate study at Cornell University two years ago, when he was appointed scholar in botany. During the last year he held one of the positions of graduate assistant in botany at Cornell. He is still continuing graduate work.

EDGAR BUCKINGHAM, associate in physics and physical chemistry in Bryn Mawr College, has resigned his position.

J. H. MCCracken, assistant professor of philosophy in New York University, has been elected President of Westminster College.

TWENTY-SIX fellowships have been announced in the University of Pennsylvania, of which the following were given in the sciences: Reappointments—*Philosophy*, H. B. Alexander; *Mathematics*, R. H. Vivian. New appointments—*Mathematics* and *Astronomy*, U. S. Hanna; *Physics*, H. S. Conrad; *Chemistry*, T. M. Taylor, M. B. MacDonald; *Zoology*, J. R. Murlin, C. B. Thompson; *Pedagogy*, I. B. McNeal.

DR. DANIEL E. ROSA, of Turin, has been appointed associate professor of comparative anatomy in the University at Sassari; Professor Bergen, of Munich, has been made professor of geology and mineralogy in the School of Mining at Clausthal. Dr. Solomon, docent in mineralogy at the University of Heidelberg, has been promoted to an assistant professorship. Dr. W. Wien, associate professor of physics at the Institute of Technology at Aix, has been called to a full professorship at the University at Giessen. Dr. Eggeling has qualified as docent in comparative anatomy and embryology in the University at Strassburg, and Dr. Zermelo as docent in mathematics and theoretical physics in the University at Giessen.