

February 7—'The Gases of the Atmosphere': DR. H. F. KELLER, Central High School, Philadelphia.

February 14—'The Canyons and Sierras of the Great Southwest': MR. ROBERT T. HILL, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

WE have already noted the bequest to the Natural History Museum, London, by Mr. Philip Crowley, of the valuable collection of birds' eggs. In accordance with the terms of the will the trustees were permitted to take four clutches of eggs of each species, or more, should any species be useful or interesting by reason of variety or locality. The selection, the *London Times* states, has recently been completed, with the result that 15,200 eggs of birds have been added to the series of eggs preserved in the zoological department of the museum. The Crowley bequest falls only a few specimens short of the series of Indian birds' eggs presented to the nation by Mr. Allan Hume in 1885. Mr. Crowley began to form his collection more than forty years ago, one of his great acquisitions being Canon Tristram's fine collection, which contained an egg of the great auk and one of the Labrador duck. These two rare eggs now pass into the possession of the national museum—a matter of some satisfaction, as hitherto the great auk has been represented in Cromwell Road by two very poor and broken specimens. The Crowley great auk's egg was bought in 1853 for £35. A very fine specimen which came into the market last year realized 315 guineas. One of the most interesting features of the Crowley collection is the remarkable series of cuckoo's eggs with those of the foster-parents. Of these there are as many as 87 different clutches, while 37 species are represented. As regards Australian birds the museum series has hitherto been markedly deficient, and as the Crowley collection was particularly rich in the eggs of that continent the increase in this respect is very appreciable. From a rough estimate it appears that the series of eggs in the Natural History Museum has been increased by nearly a third in respect of numbers, and as regards the species represented, by at least 15 per cent. Mr. Crowley also left the museum the pick of his valuable collection

of exotic butterflies. The number of specimens retained for the museum was nearly 27,000, representing about 9,900 species. The selection made will enable the museum authorities to fill important gaps in the collection, which was most deficient in examples from the localities in which the Crowley collection was especially rich—namely, West Africa, the Moluccas, and Central and Southern America.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

AMONG the gifts recently received by the University of Pennsylvania are: Mr. William Ivins, \$2,500 for the new Medical Laboratories; Mr. James Hay, \$2,500 for the Engineering Departments; Mr. Ralph C. Stewart, '99 C. and '02 L., \$5,000 towards the new building of the Department of Law.

GENERAL ISAAC J. WISTAR has paid \$12,000 for a triangular lot of ground at Thirty-seventh Street and Woodland Avenue, on which a city police station now stands. The land will be presented to the University of Pennsylvania, so that the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, which adjoins on the east, and which is also a gift of General Wistar to the University, may be enlarged.

MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER has promised to double all sums of money given to Vassar College up to \$200,000, between this time and June, 1902.

DR. HENRY HOPKINS, a congregational clergyman, has been elected president of Williams College. He is the son of Mark Hopkins, who was president of the college from 1836 to 1872.

DR. SAMUEL WEIR, formerly of New York University, has accepted a lectureship in pedagogy at the University of Cincinnati, for the remainder of this year.

DR. HANS DORFF, docent in astronomy and mathematics in the University at Leipzig, has been appointed to an assistant professorship. Dr. K. Zeissig has been appointed assistant professor of physics at the Technical Institute at Darmstadt, and Dr. Parmentier assistant professor of botany at the University of Besançon.