

forded by radium. He described how, in addition to three kinds of rays, it gave off a self-luminous gas or emanation, which contracted very quickly—so quickly indeed that in a month it contracted itself out of existence, leaving only a purple discoloration in the glass of its tube. He told how in trying to get the spectrum of this emanation he found one of the helium lines, and a few days later discovered that the tube yielded the complete spectrum of helium, his inference being that the emanation was continually changing into helium which perhaps disappeared in the glass. The speculation was suggested that there was a limit to the size of atoms, as of stars, and that some atoms were too heavy to be stable and threw off electrons, just as the planets, on the nebular hypothesis, were thrown off by the original nebula. The atoms of bodies like uranium or radium might be supposed to have reached this limit of stability, and conceivably the electrons they shot off formed matter with simple atoms which in turn polymerized into heavier ones.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY has received \$150,000 from the estate of the late James J. Belden. \$50,000 goes to the Medical College and \$100,000 to the College of Liberal Arts. Syracuse University also receives the residue of the estate of the late John Lyman. The value of the estate is not stated; but special bequests to charitable institutions were made by Mr. Lyman, amounting to over \$150,000.

THE new library building of Clark University was dedicated on January 14. The building has been erected at a cost of \$125,000 provided by the will of the founder of the university. President Hall announced a gift of \$100,000 from Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the library, this gift being made in honor of Senator Hoar, president of the board of trustees.

THE Catholic University of America has received \$50,000 from the Knights of Columbus for the endowment of a chair of secular history.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY has received a bequest of \$25,000 from the late Louis C. Vanuxem, of Philadelphia.

E. W. D. HOLWAY, banker of Decorah, Iowa, has given his private library and collection of fungi to the University of Minnesota. The library numbers about 1,000 volumes, including many rare and valuable works, and the collection, with some 85,000 specimens, is especially rich in illustrative material of the smuts and rusts, a group in which Mr. Holway is a well-known specialist.

SIR WILLIAM H. WILLS and Sir Frederick Wills have each contributed \$5,000 to liquidate the debt of \$25,000 at University College, Bristol. The whole sum has now been collected.

THE Rev. Dr. William E. Huntington has been elected president of Boston University. He has been since 1882 dean of the university, and since the resignation of Dr. Warren last year, acting president. The trustees decided that the university should equip laboratories for chemistry, physiology, biology, geology and botany, but that the courses in physics be continued as heretofore at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

J. H. BAIR, PH.D., Carnegie research assistant working in the psychological laboratory of Columbia University, has been appointed professor of psychology and education in the University of Colorado.

At Edinburgh University, Mr. E. M. Horsburgh has been appointed lecturer on practical mathematics; Dr. Jacob Halm, lecturer on astronomy, and Dr. H. J. Stiles, lecturer in applied anatomy.

MR. HERBERT TOMLINSON, F.R.S., known for his contribution to physics, has resigned the principalship of the Southwestern Polytechnic at Chelsea, London.

MR. R. H. YAPP, of Cambridge, has been appointed professor of botany in the University College of Aberystwyth.

PROFESSOR F. C. M. STÖRMER has been appointed professor of pure mathematics at the University of Christiania.