

# SCIENCE

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## CONTENTS.

<i>The Rumford Fund of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences</i> .....	47
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Stiles on the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature as applied to Medicine: PRESIDENT DAVID STARR JORDAN. Marcuse's Handbuch der geographischen Ortsbestimmung für Geographen und Forschungsreisende: O. H. T.</i> .....	490
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles</i> .....	494
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Contributions to our Knowledge of the Aeration of Soils: PROFESSOR F. H. KING. The Question as to whether Falcons when Sotring Interlock their Primary Wing Feathers: PROFESSOR BASHFORD DEAN</i> ....	495
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>The Chromosomes in Relation to the Determination of Sex in Insects: PROFESSOR EDMUND B. WILSON. The Geographical Distribution of the Bell-toads: DR. LEONHARD STEJNEGER. Hydration Caves: PROFESSOR EDWARD H. KRAUS. A Preliminary Note on Clover Diseases in Tennessee: PROFESSOR SAMUEL M. BAIN and SAMUEL H. ESSARY. A New Armored Dinosaur from the Upper Cretaceous of Wyoming: PROFESSOR S. W. WILLISTON</i> .....	500
<i>Quotations:—</i>	
<i>Shall the University become a Business Corporation? Agriculture in the Schools</i> .....	504
<i>Botanical Notes:—</i>	
<i>Morphology of the Ear of Indian Corn; A New Botanical Text-Book; Karsten and Schenck's Vegetationsbilder; Further Plant Cell Studies; A Study of Insect Galls: PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY</i> .....	506
<i>Technical Education in Australia</i> .....	508
<i>The Inauguration of President Drinker of Lehigh University</i> .....	509
<i>The Installation of President James at the University of Illinois</i> .....	509
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	510
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	512

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

## THE RUMFORD FUND OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.<sup>1</sup>

BENJAMIN THOMPSON, COUNT RUMFORD, was born at Woburn, Mass., March 26, 1753, and died at Auteuil, France, August 21, 1814. During his boyhood he showed an intense interest in scientific matters and attended scientific lectures at Harvard College. Afterwards he studied medicine, though he never practised, and taught school at Concord, N. H. He was suspected of being unfriendly to the cause of liberty in the war of the Revolution, and on the evacuation of Boston by the British—in March, 1776—he went to England.

Here he prosecuted various scientific researches, and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1779. He subsequently entered the employ of Prince Maximilian of Bavaria, to whom he was of great service, reorganizing the army, instituting important social reforms, and at the same time prosecuting valuable scientific researches. Of these the most noteworthy was his well-known investigation into the cause of the heat produced by friction, by which he conclusively disproved the hypothesis of the fluid nature of heat, and laid an important stone in the foundation of the doctrine of the conservation of energy. He was created a count by Prince Maximilian, and chose the title Count Rumford, after the New Hampshire town from which the family of his wife had come.

In 1799 he returned to England, and soon after projected the Royal Institution of Great Britain. He went to France in

<sup>1</sup> Published by the Academy.