

practical affairs with what knowledge they have or make research itself subservient to money-getting by selling crude inventions, by self-advertisement, or by cooperation with financiers. We have no hierarchy of students on a living wage basis; and as a consequence we are very short of real teachers even for practical purposes. For the real teacher must be an advanced student, not a mere parrot reciting other men's work.—The London *Times*.

#### FALLS OF METEORS.

DR. EDWARD S. HOLDEN, of the U. S. Military Academy, has kindly sent us the following letters for publication:

A large meteor appeared at Leoti, Kans., between the hours of nine and ten the night of September 2. The sky was clear and the air cool. The meteor, or fire ball, appeared in the west at an angle of about forty-five degrees, crossed the heavens with a hissing sound and was lost in the east, about ten degrees above the sky line. It seemed large as a full moon, with ragged edges. For a moment everything was flooded with light. I think a full minute passed before thundering began in the east and following the path of the meteor across the heavens slowly died out in the west. I have seen meteors in this country at different times, but none as large or followed by thunder.

October 9, 1905.

M. A. MARSTON.

A meteor is said to have fallen some years ago about fifty miles from here beside White Whale Lake. It is near an Indian reservation, and the Indians profess to have seen it fall, and hold it in a good deal of reverence. I have not yet seen the object, \* \* \* I drove out to see the stone this summer, but found that it meant a long row up the lake in a very indifferent boat, so I put the excursion off till the ice comes, when it will be possible to drive right to the spot. Are there any observations that I could make upon this meteor, if it proves to be such, that you would care to have? If so, kindly let me know.

CHAS. H. HUESTIS.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA,  
October 5, 1905.

#### THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

WE learn from the Boston *Transcript* that Harvard University has now formally abandoned all plans for a merger with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This action was taken at a meeting of the president and fellows on October 30, when the following letter was presented:

My dear President Eliot:

I am directed by the Corporation of the Institute of Technology to communicate to you the fact that, in view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the State in the case of John Wilson et al. *vs.* The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Corporation of the Institute finds it impossible to proceed with the plan of cooperation which was considered at its meeting of June 9.

In communicating this fact the corporation desires at the same time to express its appreciation of the fairness and courtesy of the Corporation of Harvard University in our common effort to solve a difficult question.

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signed] HENRY S. PRITCHETT,  
October 11, 1905. *President.*

Thereupon it was voted that the committee of conference appointed by the Harvard board on May 16, 1904, at the instance of the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, be discharged, and that the president be requested to express to the members of the two committees of conference the high appreciation by the president and fellows of the foresight, good judgment and public spirit of which the committees' project for a close affiliation between the institute and the university gives evidence, and the regret of the president and fellows that the project has been brought to naught by the recent decision of the supreme court, which makes it impossible for the institute to place itself beside the university.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Bolyai prize of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, of which some account was recently given here, has been awarded to M. Poincaré.