Our results agree entirely with those of MacDougall. Discussion of their significance may well be postponed until the completion of an investigation, now in progress, of the relations of age and physiological rhythms to time estimation.

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING A NEW MERCURY MINERAL FROM TERLINGUA, TEXAS.

The mercury minerals of the Terlingua district, Texas, are noted for the unusual composition of several of their number. Besides cinnabar, calomel and mercuric oxide, two oxychlorides, eglestonite and terlinguaite, have been described in detail by Professor A. J. Moses (A. J. S. **166**, 253, 1903), and a third, as yet unnamed, has been provisionally identified by him as likewise an oxychloride. This last, the No. 5 of Professor Moses, seems to be the chief mineral in a number of specimens from the Terlingua District lately received for identification from Mr. H. W. Turner. Its examination reveals a composition most singular and apparently representative of a class of compounds hitherto unknown in nature, viz.: mercur-ammonium salts. So far as yet known, the qualitative composition is represented by the components Hg, N, Cl, SO_4, probably O and possibly H. The tests, both qualitative and quantitative, thus far made, seem to show with little room for doubt that the mercury and nitrogen form the mercur-ammonium radical. Dr. P. G. Nutting, of the Bureau of Standards, has kindly examined spectroscopically the products of progressive heating of the mineral under reduced pressure; and besides nitrogen, mercury, chlorine and sulphur, obtained a small amount of helium. Singularly enough, this last seemed to come off wholly during the first warming of the mineral and before it underwent any visible breaking-up.

The complete examination of this novel mineral and its associated mercury compounds will probably consume much time. In order to reserve the field for the chemical examination by myself and the crystallographical (now in progress) by Mr. W. T. Schaller, this preliminary announcement is made.

W. F. Hillebrand.

U. S. Geological Survey,
Washington, D. C.,
December 14, 1905.

QUOTATIONS.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION.

In the December *Popular Science Monthly* Professor John J. Stevenson again takes up the question of the status of American college professors, maintaining that the present tendency to subordinate them to the trustees and to the president is contrary to the real interests of educational progress. The trustees are successful men of business or professional life for the most part, with neither the time nor the expert knowledge necessary to administer wisely the internal affairs of an institution of learning. The president, once a good professor as well, must now be a successful business manager and money-getter, teaching little if at all, and, like the trustees, possessing neither the time nor the knowledge requisite to the sagacious exercise of the powers which are generally either sought by him or thrust into his hands under existing conditions. The trustees, then, should confine themselves strictly to the management of the property and the task of securing funds for the carrying out of such educational policies as the teaching force may advise. Even in filling vacancies in their own number, their action, he is inclined to think, should be subject to veto by two thirds of the full professors. Vacancies in the faculty should be filled by the faculty itself, subject to confirmation of the trustees merely *pro forma,* or to rejection in case there are not funds available for the required salary. The presidency should be abolished altogether, each faculty selecting its own executive head, who should be simply *primus inter pares,* and the mouthpiece of the faculty in its relations with the trustees. It is noticeable that the editor of the *Monthly,* in a paragraph relating to the recent conference of college and university trustees held at the installation of the presi-

dent of the University of Illinois, questions the theory that the recent rapid growth in the material endowment of colleges is the work of the presidency, and also suggests that, even if it were, institutions are not always such centers of education, scholarship and research as their liberal endowments would lead one to suppose. It is only the great teacher and investigator, after all, who can impart anything but mere material greatness to an institution of learning.—*The Nation.*

A COLLEGE was originally a society of scholars organized for the pursuit and acquirement of knowledge. It sent forth its alumni to be ministers, jurists, physicians, teachers—leaders in their communities. It was for this purpose that colleges were founded in our country. They stood for the highest ideals of manhood. They and their graduates created and represented those ideals for which the college was responsible.

The president was then the head of the college. To the community he stood for what the college was and was doing for it. The people saw in him the disciplined mind and the all-around manhood which they honored and to which they taught their sons to aspire. To the faculty he was the leader in their plans, and the inspirer of their aims. Students went to the college already reverencing him as the embodiment of a high ideal, went to him when there as counsellor and friend, passed under his instruction in the upper classes and carried the impress of his character through their lives. Such men as Mark Hopkins, of Williams, and Theodore Woolsey, of Yale, and James Fairchild, of Oberlin, reproduced their noblest qualities directly and indirectly in thousands of leaders of men, and no men in any office in this country have surpassed them in its service.

The average college president of to-day represents no such ideal. He is not sought for it, has no opportunity to realize it. There are men of the type here described, but they are exceptions. The college president is chosen because of his ability as a money getter. His business is to beg from rich men and from women who have fortunes left to them. His success is measured by the number and cost of the buildings erected with the money he has raised and by the amount of endowment he has secured. There are college presidents whose faces are more familiar to business men in Boston and New York than to their own students, who have earned no more right to a place in the ranks of scholars than the captains of their college football teams, and who are less honored and heroic than they are in the public's esteem.

None feels the degradation of the high office of the college president as keenly as he does. In many cases he has accepted his office with a worthier purpose than that which he has been forced to adopt. He has yielded most reluctantly to the compulsion to join the already overfull procession of those who were nominally chosen as intellectual and moral leaders of men, who crowd on one another in the anterooms of business offices and in ringing the doorbells of the rich.—*The Congregationalist.*

A NEW SCHOOL FOR CLAY WORKERS.

THE University of Illinois has issued a bulletin describing the courses in ceramics which it now offers for the first time. The rapid destruction of our forests and the consequent increase in value of all kinds of lumber are causing people to look with new interest toward clay products as the most promising building and decorative materials of the near future, and this interest has caused a demand for cheaper and better materials of this class.

Clay workers are beginning to realize that in order to meet this demand they must put men who are well educated along lines of applied science and mechanics in control of their plants and are inquiring where such men can be found. As there are but three schools in this country which offer instruction especially planned to meet the needs of clay workers, the demand far exceeds the supply and manufacturers are willing to pay well for the services of competent men, hence the University of Illinois feels justified in adding such instruction to the technical courses which it has offered heretofore.

Two courses are offered, both of which