

duced results of great interest and importance. The flora and fauna of the various islands visited were described, together with the geological formation of the rocks and the changes which are in progress. A large collection of specimens both from the land and the sea was made during the expedition, and was exhibited by the lecturer.

*Nature* says: "The real existence of the  $n$ -rays, discovered by M. Blondlot, has been the subject of much discussion, there being a general consensus of opinion outside France that the effects produced are physiological. The *Comptes rendus* for January 15 contain two papers of considerable interest on this subject. The first of these, by M. Mascart, gives details of a series of measurements of the points of maximum intensity in the spectrum produced by the refraction of the  $n$ -rays through an aluminium prism, by a number of independent observers. The phosphorescent screen was mounted on the carriage of a dividing engine, and each of four observers (Messrs. Blondlot, Gutton, Vitz and Mascart) made independent measurements of the points of maximum intensity. The most concordant figures were those obtained by M. Blondlot, but the general agreement of the results left no doubt as to the position of the lines. M. Mascart gives the results without comment. The second paper, by M. Gutton, is an attempt to prove the objective existence of the  $n$ -rays. It had been noted that if these rays are allowed to fall on the primary spark of a Hertzian oscillator, the luster of the secondary spark diminishes. This effect has been secured photographically, the difference being clearly marked in the whole of the thirty-seven experiments. The apparatus is described in detail, and the precautions necessary for success pointed out. These two papers certainly provide material for consideration by those who maintain that the whole phenomenon is a physiological illusion."

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE annual report of the treasurer of Princeton University states that \$1,000,000

has been raised by the committee of fifty toward the fund to endow the new preceptorial system.

CONTRACTS have been let for a new building at Swarthmore College, to be used for engineering shops. The building is to cost twenty thousand dollars, and is to be two stories high and will be made fireproof. In the basement the shops for forging will be located. The machine shops and metal works will be installed on the first floor, while the second floor will be given to wood working.

OLD NORTH COLLEGE, a dormitory of Wesleyan University erected in 1827, was destroyed by fire on March 1. The loss, which is said to be \$80,000, is covered by insurance.

Mr. Alfred Beit, of London, the South African financier, has given \$500,000 to establish a university at Hamburg, where he was born in 1853.

THE Association of American Universities will hold its seventh annual conference in San Francisco on March 14.

A CONFERENCE of college and university presidents of New York state, and representatives of the Department of Education held a meeting in Albany last week. Preliminary steps were taken for the formation of an Association of Colleges of the State of New York, and a committee consisting of First Assistant Commissioner Rogers, as chairman; Chancellor Day, of Syracuse University; President Rhees, of Rochester University, and Dean Crane, of Cornell University, was appointed to prepare a constitution to be presented at a meeting at Columbia University, on April 19 and 20.

THE New York alumni of the Johns Hopkins University held their annual dinner on March 2, the principal address being made by President Remsen. Dr. Charles Lane Poor, professor of astronomy at Columbia University, was elected president for the ensuing year.

RICHARD S. LULL, associate professor of zoology in the Massachusetts State Agricultural College, has been appointed assistant professor of paleontology at Yale University.