dophyceae from Florida and the Bahama Islands. A dozen good plates, partly photographic, accompany these studies. — Recent papers by Professor F. L. Stevens include 'The Science of Plant Pathology' (a popular discussion, first published in the *Popular Science Monthly,* September, 1905), 'Oogenesis and Fertilization in *Albugo ipomoeae-panduranae*' (a cytological study from the *Botanical Gazette,* October, 1904), 'A Nature-Study Lesson with the Moulds' and 'A Simple Experiment on Spontaneous Generation' (both popular articles for teachers and pupils in the public schools, originally published in the *Nature-Study Review*). — Dr. E. J. Durand's recent papers on fungi include 'The Genus *Sarcosoma* in North America,' 'Three new Species of Discomycetes' and '*Peziza fusicarpa* and *Peziza semitosta*,' all from the *Journal of Mycology.* — Professor Halsted's 'Report of the Botanical Department for 1905,' published by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is as usual a marvel in the way of containing the results of an astonishing number of experiments and observations. Many fine half-tone reproductions of photographs add much to the usefulness of this admirable report.

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THE WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.

The Worcester Polytechnic Institute has just awarded a contract for the erection of a new building to be used exclusively for electrical engineering. It is designed to have this building put up as rapidly as possible so that it may be used during as large a portion of the next school year as possible. The building has been designed by the firm of Peabody & Stearns, Boston, architects. Professor A. W. French, the head of the civil engineering department at the Worcester Institute is to act as consulting engineer and superintendent of construction.

The plans for this building have been under consideration for some time and it is the intention of the trustees to make it the most thoroughly equipped and up to date electrical engineering laboratory anywhere in this country.

The large general laboratory will have a length of 200 feet and a width of 55 feet. This with three galleries which form a part of the plan will give a floor area of 19,400 square feet and will constitute what is undoubtedly the largest electrical engineering laboratory in the world. This laboratory will be served by a ten-ton electric controlling crane covering the entire central portion of the laboratory between the galleries. The galleries will be served by two-ton controlling hoists covering their entire length. The usual lecture rooms, recitation rooms, and design rooms and special laboratories and workshops are to be found in the building; but the feature upon which the greatest amount of thought has been expended and the feature which will undoubtedly attract the greatest amount of attention is the electric railway testing laboratories. The Worcester Polytechnic Institute is a pioneer in this kind of work and is at the present time the only institution in the United States where an independent chair in electric railway engineering has been established. Connection will be made with the tracks of the Worcester street railway system, so that electric cars can be run directly into the laboratory and the tests conducted there.

Ample facilities are also to be provided for work in connection with insulation and with high potential transmission. The equipment of the laboratory will permit the use of voltages of any desired frequency and potential up to 750,000 volts for the study of the various problems of long-distance high potential power transmission and the dielectric and electrostatic phenomena of insulating and other material.

The plans as drawn by Peabody and Stearns provide for an attractive building architecturally. In its location the building will front on Salisbury Street, directly opposite Institute Park, thus giving it one of the most beautiful locations to be found in the city.

L. L. Conant.