

of peach trees may be delayed by injecting with saturated solutions of ether in water from an inverted bottle supported above. Etherization should be begun just a few days before the buds begin to open. In the writer's experiments blossoming was delayed eleven days. The trees were not injured by the treatment. Ripening was retarded by two or three days, but the fruit was materially increased in size.

Leafy shoots set in bottles of solutions are far more sensitive to the effect of ether than is the leafless tree, one half of one per cent. causing transpiration almost to cease in less than twenty-four hours. Opening flower buds are more sensitive still, being overcome by one tenth of one per cent. of ether.

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#### AN ILLINOIS STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE time seems ripe for the formation of a State Academy of Sciences in Illinois, which may aid scientific work throughout the state by banding together the leaders in the various departments of science, by stimulating students in the more isolated communities, and by forming a center for all scientific interests.

The demand for such an organization is great and the opportunity promising. It is hoped that every leader and every worker in science in the state will help the cause by becoming charter members.

Will those interested write to the undersigned suggesting the best time for the first meeting.

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#### THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: There appeared in SCIENCE for March 29, 1907, the reprint of an article in the *Boston Evening Transcript* regarding the University of Maine, which contained a few misstatements that should be corrected:

First. The committee appointed by the legislature presented a *majority* report favor-

ing the discontinuance of the liberal arts course, not retaining it as stated by the *Transcript*. The *minority* report recommended its retention.

Second. The vote in the senate was 17 to 13 in favor of discontinuing the liberal arts course instead of retaining it as reported by the *Transcript*.

As the house favored retaining the liberal arts course by a vote of 123 to 12 the result is a deadlock between the two bodies and no knowledge of a settlement has reached the writer at this date.

On several occasions during the discussion before the legislative committee the leaders of the opposition to the University of Maine resorted to personal abuse of the president of the university; on one occasion he being accused of being 'a freebooter, with an ignoble desire to be president of a university.' Such a method of procedure by the opposition certainly does not tend to increase the respect of the people of the state of Maine for the opposing institutions and for their representatives. Such political methods should be beneath the dignity of the representatives of Maine's oldest educational institution, and we hope will receive the censure of its alumni.

P. L. R.

We are informed that the senate of the State of Maine passed on March 25, the appropriation for the University of Maine without withdrawing the right to confer the degree of bachelor of arts.—EDITOR.

#### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND NEWSPAPER SCIENCE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: My attention is directed to a communication signed "C. A." in your issue of March 22. I am certainly amazed that so reputable a paper as SCIENCE should lend itself to such a statement without the slightest investigation.

The story respecting Matteucci and the Marchette's comet appeared originally in the *London Daily Mail* and was cabled to the *New York Sun* on February 22. It was denied in the *New York Sun* on February 25. The Associated Press never at any time cabled it to this country or anywhere else.