

sea level. Bennetts Well, which is near this point, is 266 feet below sea level. These figures are probably not more than three feet in error. The Geological Survey now has elevation marks on the highest and lowest points of dry land in the United States. It is a coincidence that these two extremes are both in southern California and only 75 miles apart. Mount Whitney is a foot or two over 14,500 feet above sea level, while Death Valley, as above stated, is 276 feet below. Before the Salton Sink, also in southern California, was flooded by the Colorado River, it contained the lowest point of dry land in the United States, a spot 287 feet below sea level. Previous estimates of the depth of Death Valley based on barometer readings gave for the lowest point figures varying from 250 to 450 feet below sea level.

*Nature* states that at the annual general meeting of the Geological Society on February 22, Sir Archibald Geikie, the president, described the arrangements contemplated for the celebration of the society's centenary next September. Invitations to attend the meetings will be sent to all the foreign members and foreign correspondents of the society, and geological societies, geological surveys, and learned institutions which have a geological side, will be asked to send delegates. Personal invitations will also be addressed to geologists of note in the old and the new world, who are not already enrolled in the foreign lists of the society. The official program will probably extend over three days in London. The arrangements for each of these three days are under consideration, but Sir Archibald Geikie proposes to give his presidential address as the *pièce de résistance* of one of the forenoon or afternoon meetings. In that address he will offer a sketch of the state of geological science outside Britain at the time when the Geological Society of London was founded, and indicate the external influences that affected its start. By this choice of a subject he hopes to interest the foreign guests, while at the same time inviting the fellows of the society into a domain of the history of science which

is perhaps less familiar than it deserves to be. The chronicle of the society itself during the first hundred years of its existence has been carefully and fully compiled from all available sources by Mr. Horace B. Woodward for publication in volume form. Excursions to places of geological note in Great Britain will probably be arranged, some to precede and others to follow the meeting in London. The various museums and places of interest in the metropolis will, of course, be shown to the expected visitors, and there will doubtless be no lack of public and private hospitality. It is anticipated that the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge will both receive the foreign guests.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Drapers Company has decided to continue its grant of £800 a year for the stipend of the professor of agriculture at Cambridge for another period of ten years. The company has also given £200 for the completion of the astronomical equipment of the University of London.

MRS. RUSSELL SAGE has given \$150,000 to the Northfield (Mass.) Seminary for a new chapel and a music building.

THE Johns Hopkins University will hereafter admit women to graduate courses in cases where no objection is made by the instructors. Women have been admitted to the medical department of the university since its opening in 1893.

THE London University holiday course for foreigners will be held from July 22 to August 26.

It has been decided by the council of the University of Leeds to create a separate chair of botany. This has arisen out of the resignation of Professor Miall, who combined the teaching of botany with zoology.

DR. W. PEDDIE, lecturer in natural philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed to the Harris chair of physics in University College, Dundee, in succession to Professor Kuenen.