

workers (not to exceed 1,000 words). (e) For dairy farmers (not to exceed 1,000 words). (f) For school children in grammar school grades (not to exceed 500 words). (g) Pictorial booklet for school children in primary grades and for the nursery. Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, Philadelphia, is the chairman of the committee, and Dr. Thomas G. Ashton, Philadelphia, is the secretary.

THE Friday evening lecture at the Royal Institution on March 27 was given by the Hon. R. J. Strutt, whose subject was "Radio-active Change in the Earth." Lord Rayleigh was in the chair. According to the report in the London *Times*, Mr. Strutt remarked that the mineral pitch-blende, the source of radium and other radioactive materials, was in England only found in Cornwall, in veins in the granite and slate. The question arose, How did it get there? The answer he proposed to adopt was that it was derived from the surrounding granite which refined examination showed to contain radium to the extent of one part in a million million. Minute though this proportion was, the total quantity of radium contained at this rate in the external crust of the earth, to a depth of 40 or 50 miles, was more than sufficient to account for the internal heat of the earth. Of the constituents of granite zircon was found to contain quite a large quantity of radium, and in microphotographs of granite discolorations could often be perceived round a zircon crystal. Radium being present in granite, it was natural to expect the presence of helium also; and in fact that gas could be found if looked for with sufficient care. It could also be found in other minerals, the radioactivity of which was not very conspicuous, and he showed a sparking tube filled with helium which had been obtained from about 2 pounds of quartz. Radium also was to be found in numbers of other minerals he had examined, and generally in sufficient quantities to explain the amount of helium they contained. One exception he had discovered was beryl, which contained no radium worth mentioning, but a very large quantity of helium. After discussing a possible explanation of this exception, the lecturer concluded by saying

that as the production of helium was a question of time, the quantity found in rocks of different geological strata might provide us with a means of estimating how much time had lapsed since their deposition.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MR. HENRY WILDE, D.C.L., F.R.S., already a liberal benefactor of Oxford University, has given £4,000 to found a Lectureship in natural and comparative religion.

MRS. GORDON and Miss Peters have given £4,000 to University College, Dundee, for the erection of a laboratory of electrical engineering, in memory of their late brother, Lord Dean of Guild Peters.

AN agreement has been reached in the matter of affiliation of Cooper Medical College with Stanford University. The study of medicine must be pursued in San Francisco and the trusts left by Dr. Levi C. Lane are to be fulfilled.

THE regents of the University of Wisconsin at their meeting on April 22 considered the question as to whether the efficiency of instruction might be increased by providing separate classes in subjects generally neglected by men and by women, respectively; but as the matter was one of general educational policy, the regents deferred action until the faculty has an opportunity to consider the question and to report the results of its investigation to the board. A committee of nine professors in the college of letters and science, with Dean E. A. Birge as chairman, is now considering the matter, but owing to the complexity of the subject will probably not be able to report for some time.

AT the University of Wisconsin Professor Carl C. Thomas, now head of the department of marine engineering of Cornell University, has been chosen to the professorship of steam engineering made vacant by the death of Storm Bull.

PROFESSOR FRED'K F. JONES, dean of the College of Engineering and Mechanical Arts in the University of Minnesota, has been elected dean of the academic faculty of Yale University. Professor Jones graduated from Yale College in 1884 and has been connected with the University of Minnesota since 1885.