

THE Drapers' Company has granted £500, to be paid in five annual instalments of £100, to the Middlesex Hospital cancer research fund to assist the governors in maintaining the investigations which are being pursued into the cause of cancer and its cure.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE legislature of Vermont has acted favorably upon the proposition to establish at Middlebury College a department of pedagogy for the training of high school teachers. The bill, which has been signed by Governor Prouty, carries an annual appropriation of \$6,000.

RICHMOND COLLEGE, at Richmond, Va., controlled by the Baptists of that state, has collected \$350,000, required to secure a conditional gift of \$150,000 from Mr. John D. Rockefeller.

EIGHTEEN months have now elapsed since the Chancellor's Fund for the further endowment of Oxford University was inaugurated. The committee then appointed under the chairmanship of Lord Curzon to organize the appeal has so far been successful in its efforts to raise the required sum of £250,000 that it has now received gifts or promises of a total value of more than £133,000. Recent subscribers have been: Sir Julius Wernher, £2,000; Mrs. Craig-Sellar, £1,000; Mr. Otto Beit, £500; the Merchant Tailors' Company, £500; Mr. J. Hamilton Beattie, £300; Mr. Gerard Craig-Sellar, £300; the Skinners' Company, £250. Mr. Henry Phipps has added £200 to his original gift of £1,000, and Lord Brassey has given £200 for the School of Geography in addition to the £1,000 promised by him for the School of Engineering.

THE board of managers of Haverford College and the faculty held recently their annual joint meeting. The topics for discussion were the advisability of increasing the number of dormitories, and as to whether it would be well to limit the number of students by raising the entrance requirement.

THE Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers, at its meeting held in Chicago on November 28, unanimously passed

the following resolutions as embodying the conclusions of the association with regard to two important matters of interest to all teachers of science:

*Resolved*, That we believe in the recognition and inclusion within our courses of the practical and applied aspects that make possible an appreciable significance and belief in the worthwhileness in practical life of the various subjects studied; and

*Resolved*, That we believe that the formulation of secondary school courses should be made entirely from the point of view of the needs of the majority of secondary school pupils; and, further, that any course that is best for the majority of secondary school pupils is best for college entrance.

PROFESSOR WALTER S. GRAFFAM, of Howard University, Washington, D. C., has accepted the instructorship in mechanic arts at Smith's Agricultural School and Northampton School of Technology. He will be placed at the head of the mechanic arts department, and will take up his new duties September 1, 1909.

DEANS of faculties at the University of London have been elected as follows: For medicine, Professor S. H. C. Martin, F.R.S.; for science, Professor J. M. Thomson, F.R.S.; for engineering, Professor W. E. Dalby.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### AN ELECTRIC STORM ON THE WASHAKIE NEEDLES

To the issue of *SCIENCE* of November 6, 1908, Professor J. E. Church, Jr., contributes an article entitled, "Electric Disturbances and Perils on Mountain Tops." The exceedingly interesting phenomena there described recall a personal experience, vivid and unpleasant, and of like character, but differing enough in detail to render it possibly worthy of being recorded. It has remained until now unpublished, because I feared that as it came from one who had no pretensions to scientific education, it might not meet with credence. What follows happened near the top of some mountains in Wyoming, to the southeast of the Yellowstone Park, generally known on local maps as the Washakie Needles. Visible from a long distance, these sharp gray peaks are somewhat higher than the surrounding range, and two well-known streams, Owl Creek