

there is not a single species of hardwood here ranking in commercial importance with the leading eastern hardwoods. Climatic conditions in many parts of California are favorable for the growth of a number of the valuable hardwoods, and the absence of these trees is due mostly to unfavorable factors of seed distribution.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE General Education Board has offered to give the Johns Hopkins University \$200,000 on condition that a million dollars be raised for the removal of the university to its new site at Homewood.

MR. N. W. HARRIS has promised to give Northwestern University \$155,000 if the college will procure the remainder of a million dollars during the coming year.

THE New York *Evening Post* states that Mrs. D. G. Richardson, who in the past has contributed liberally to the medical school of Tulane University, has recently given property valued at \$55,000, and yielding an income of \$3,000 for the endowment of the chair of botany. Professor R. S. Cocks fills the newly created chair.

THE debt of Columbia University contracted in part payment of its new site and buildings has been funded, and the United States Trust Company has taken a mortgage of \$3,000,000 on the blocks owned by the university on Fifth Avenue between forty-ninth and fifty-first streets. The university will pay off this debt in thirty annual installments.

PROFESSOR IRVING HARDESTY, the head of the department of anatomy at the University of California, has been appointed to the head of the department of anatomy in Tulane University, Louisiana.

DR. GEORGE H. LING, adjunct professor of mathematics at Columbia, has accepted the professorship of mathematics in the newly-established University of Saskatchewan.

DR. FRANK G. SPECK, instructor in anthropology, has accepted the position of assistant professor of anthropology in the University of California.

WALTER K. VAN HAAGEN, assistant in chemistry at Lehigh University, has been

elected associate professor of chemistry at the University of Georgia.

PROFESSOR J. A. BROWN has resigned his position at Dartmouth College to accept the chair of physics at the Protestant College of Beirut, Syria.

MR. CHARLES B. GATES, assistant in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, has been chosen instructor in chemistry at the Michigan College of Mines.

PROFESSOR G. ELLIOT SMITH, F.R.S., of the Government School of Medicine, Cairo, has been appointed to the chair of anatomy in the University of Manchester.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ON THE TEACHING OF THE ELEMENTS OF EMBRYOLOGY

IN 1893 Professor A. Milnes Marshall wrote in the preface to his "Vertebrate Embryology":

Great attention has of recent years been given to the study of embryology, and yet it is curiously difficult to find straightforward accounts of the development even of the commonest animals. . . . In works professing to deal with human embryology it is more common than not to find that the descriptions, and the figures given in illustration of them, are really taken, not from human embryos at all, but from rabbits, pigs, chickens or even dogfish.

This latter practise is a most unfortunate one, and has been the cause of much confusion. The student is led to suppose that our knowledge is more complete than is really the case, while at the same time he finds the greatest difficulty in obtaining definite information on any particular point in which he is interested.

This very temperate statement needs to be repeated to-day with greater emphasis, for the attention given to the study of embryology has increased with the years; it is required from practically every student of medicine and of biology, and it is as difficult as ever, if not more so (for old accounts grow out of date), to find straightforward accounts of the development even of the commonest animals. Now, as then, our text-books leap from fish to man, back to *Amphioxus*, and forward again, with stops at intermediate stations, amphibians, reptiles and birds, in such a way as to