



alone. The argument may be made clear by the two following tables:

ELEMENTS IN COAL

Combustible	Non-combustible
Carbon.	Oxygen.
Hydrogen.	Nitrogen.
Sulphur.	

COMPOSITION OF COAL

Combustible	Non-combustible
Carbon.	Water of combination.
Available hydrogen.	Nitrogen.
Sulphur.	

The first table presents a list of elements in coal and by this pure coal is meant, or, in other words, free from ash and moisture. In the second tabulation it will be observed that no oxygen is listed, but a new constituent water of combination takes its place. Our conception of the presence of oxygen in coal is that it is all in combination with hydrogen. The table also shows hydrogen which is available in combustion for heat production. Thus,

when values are given upon this basis, the inert volatile matter which contains oxygen and hydrogen as water of combination, becomes a larger quantity than the oxygen figure which Dr. White has employed.

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ALLIGATOR MISSISSIPPIENSIS IN OKLAHOMA

THE occurrence of any species of reptile at a considerable distance beyond its usual or recorded range is a matter of general zoological interest. The capture of *Alligator mississippiensis* Daudin in central Oklahoma under circumstances which render it very improbable that the individual had ever been in captivity seems, therefore, worthy of record. The specimen was taken in a "lake" or bayou of the South Canadian River within five miles of the State University of Oklahoma, at Nor-

man. It was secured by a farmer, who presented it to the university museum through Dr. A. H. Van Vleet. Its skeleton has been preserved, and a life-like model, full size, was made and is now in the university museum. The specimen was a female, slightly over four and one half feet in length from tip to tip. It had been seen in the locality where taken, by a number of persons at various times for at least three years previous to its capture.

There is no record nor tradition of an alligator ever having escaped or been liberated (or even held captive) in this vicinity, and it is quite unlikely that such a thing could have occurred in what was formerly the Indian Territory. It seems altogether probable, therefore, that this individual had traveled up the Arkansas River to the mouth of the Canadian, and thence up the latter to the vicinity of Norman, some three hundred and fifty to four hundred miles west of the Arkansas-Oklahoma state line. The Canadian River is not a navigable stream and for most of the year is only a small meandering creek in a wide valley well filled up with sand. It is subject to numerous freshets, and frequently changes its course, so that "lakes" or bayous are numerous. The larger of such bayous apparently would make an admirable habitat for this species.

It is useless to speculate on the causes which impelled this individual to make such a journey, but it is important that it was apparently successfully maintaining its existence in its new station until man's interference put an end to one of nature's experiments.

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NORMAN, OKLA.,
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QUOTATIONS

PRESIDENT SCHURMAN AND THE FUTURE OF
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT SCHURMAN is determined to put every department of Cornell University under the control of the Legislature at Albany. He has hinted such a purpose in the past, and now he makes it clear. The first title in his report to the Board of Trustees is "State

Support and Control of the University." Under this heading the president indicates that he would welcome state control and shows how it may easily be brought about; he does not explain how state *support* may also be obtained, but leaves it to be inferred that he thinks the state will inevitably support what it controls.

The president has done well to bring this question into the open. The alumni of the university are entitled to a voice in deciding so vital a matter of policy. Will they be found to favor the president's plan? We think not. But if they are opposed to it they must make themselves heard, or the president will unquestionably take their silence for consent. The alumni have representatives on the Board of Trustees whose opinion they, presumably, can sway, but this question is too important to be debated and decided behind closed doors. It should be discussed in the open. There are difficulties and dangers in the university's path if it follows President Schurman on his road to Albany. Are there substantial rewards at the end of the journey? The university will hope to make the state its benefactor. But will it not put behind it for all time the hope of any substantial benefactions from private sources? Which road shall we take? This paper hopes to have an opportunity to print some opinions on the subject.—*Cornell Alumni News*.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Life Histories of Northern Animals: An Account of the Mammals of Manitoba. By ERNEST THOMPSON SETON, Naturalist to the Government of Manitoba. With 68 maps and 560 drawings by the author. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1909. Two volumes, royal 8vo. Vol. I., Grass-eaters, pp. i-xxx, 1-673, pll. i-xlvi, text illust. 1-182 and maps 1-38. Vol. II., Flesh-eaters, pp. i-xii, 675-1267, pll. xlvii-c, text illust. 183-267 and maps 39-68. \$18 net per set.

The secondary title of Mr. Seton's great work, "An Account of the Mammals of Manitoba," more definitely expresses its scope and character than the leading title, "Life Histor-