Gertrude B. Knipp is executive secretary of the association.

THE question of the authenticity of the Kensington rune, which recently has aroused discussion among antiquarians seems to have entered upon a new phase by the announcement that the Minnesota Historical Society has, after a lengthy investigation, given its verdict in favor of the genuineness of the stone, which is dated 1362. The announcement is concurred in by the Scandinavian department of the University of Minnesota and by scientific men at the university who have carried on independently an examination of the stone with reference to language, historical conditions and the evidence of weathering of the stone and the runic lines. The Chicago Historical Society recently had the stone on exhibition, a lecture being delivered in favor of the genuineness of the stone by its owner, Mr. H. R. Holand, which was afterwards discussed by Professor George T. Flom, professor of Scandinavian languages and literature in the University of Illinois, who had been invited by the society to present the results of a philological examination of the inscription of the stone. Professor Flom maintained that the linguistic forms of the inscription are in this case the only scientific test and these are in themselves absolute and conclusive, and he showed by an analysis of the word forms, inflexions, phonology and meanings of certain words, and a presentation of the characteristics of the old Swedish language of the time, that the so-called rune-stone must be adjudged a fake. Its language is a mixture of nineteenth century Norwegian and Swedish, with a few antiquated words modified further by an evident antiquarian effort in orthography, which, however, the modern rune-master, not possessing a knowledge of old Swedish, fails to harmonize with the orthography and the pronunciation of the time. Professor Starr W. Cutting and Dr. C. N. Gould, of Chicago University, subscribe unreservedly to Professor Flom's views of the language of the stone. An interesting phase of the situation is presented by the fact of the verdict of the Minnesota Historical Society, which has recently bought the stone from the owner for $1,000 and given Mr. Holand a stipend of $2,000 for study in Scandinavian.

FOR some time there has been in contemplation the establishment of an imperial chemical institute at Berlin similar to the *Reichsanstalt*. The *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the wholesale chemical industry has established an imperial society which decided at its last meeting to appropriate $225,000 for the founding of an imperial chemical institute. As a preliminary the association formulated the demand that the federal government should furnish the ground and that the Prussian department of education should supply a professor from the University of Berlin as president of the institute, and an associate professor as director of one department.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A GIFT of $150,000 for the erection of an administration building and library at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, N. Y., by the Pittsburgh Alumni Association has been announced.

PROFESSOR W. J. HUSSEY, director of the observatory of the University of Michigan, announces that the university is about to re-receive gifts aggregating $20,000 from Mr. R. P. Lamont, of Chicago, a member of the class of '91. One gift, representing $17,000, is a deed of land directly east of the observatory, bordering upon the arboretum. This should always insure a sky line free from smoke and dust. Mr. Lamont has also furnished funds to start the construction of a 24-inch refracting telescope.

GOVERNOR W. R. STUBBS has given the University of Kansas $1,000 for a fellowship to investigate the extraction of medicinal substances from the glands of deep-sea mammals. The fellowship has been awarded to Roy Wiedlein, who will spend part of the time in Alaska.

AT the ninth annual dinner of the alumni of Stevens Institute, which took place at the Hotel Astor, New York, on February 12, nearly three hundred men cheered President Humphreys when he presented his program for the development of the institute. The other speakers included Dr. H. S. Pritchett,

president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; Col. E. A. Stevens, of Castle Point; Hosea Webster, '82, of the Babcock & Wilcox Boiler Co.; H. M. Brinckerhoff, '90, president of the Alumni Association and electrical associate of Wm. Barclay Parsons; and E. H. Peabody, '90, of the Babcock & Wilcox Co., the toastmaster. President Humphreys announced that he had recently received $63,500 of the $1,250,000 which he expects to raise for the improvement and extension of the institute. This money is to be used for the purchase of the Castle Point estate, for the erection of several buildings, including a dormitory, a mechanical laboratory and an electrical laboratory, and to provide an adequate endowment fund.

The Minnseota *Alumni Weekly* states that President A. Ross Hill, of the University of Missouri, has notified the authorities of the University of Minnesota that he could not consider an offer of the presidency of the university.

R. D. Thomson, a graduate of Harvard University in the class of 1907, has been appointed instructor in electrical engineering in the University of Vermont.

Dr. H. Irving Eleshinger, associate in chemistry at the University of Chicago, has been appointed professor in the University of Pekin. Professor Oscar Eckstein, formerly instructor in chemistry in the University of Chicago, is director of the department of science.

Mr. A. J. Hebertson, reader in geography at Oxford University, has been appointed to a professorship of geography.

Mr. A. C. Seward, professor of botany at Cambridge University and a former fellow of St. John's College, has been elected to the professorial fellowship vacated by Mr. Bateson's resignation of the professorship of biology. Mr. Bateson has been made honorary fellow of the college.

At Oxford University Dr. Walter Ramsden, fellow of Pembroke; Dr. H. M. Vernon, fellow of Magdalen, and Mr. S. G. Scott, B.M., Magdalen, have been appointed demonstrators in physiology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ON THE SO-CALLED NORWOOD "METEORITE"

The issue of Science for January 28 contains an article by Professor Frank W. Very entitled "Fall of a Meteorite in Norwood, Massachusetts," descriptive of what he supposes to have been a meteoritic stone said to have fallen on the farm of Mr. W. P. Nickerson, of Norwood, Mass., during the night between October 7–8, 1909. On account of the specific character of the description and for fear that this may be successful in giving the "Norwood meteorite" a place in the literature, I feel that another opinion with regard to the character of the specimen should be placed on record.

I saw the newspaper account of this fall directly after its occurrence, and after correspondence with Mr. Nickerson took the first opportunity that presented itself to examine the specimen, which was then on exhibition in a "dime museum" in Boston. Mr. Nickerson himself met me there and showed me the stone. Professor Very's account of the appearance of the mass is sufficiently accurate, but his interpretation of it is entirely erroneous. As a matter of fact, the specimen is a characteristic glacial bowlder of a basic igneous dike rock, the matrix in which has been weathered so as to leave the characteristic large phenocrysts of plagioclase projecting from the surface. There is no surface indication whatever of flowage or of the skin which is characteristic of freshly fallen stony meteorites. I broke off a piece of the stone and examined the fresh fracture with the greatest care under a hand lens without finding any indication of the existence of metallic iron in the mass. Since reading Professor Very's article, I have had a thin section of my fragment made. Microscopic examination of this proves the rock to be ordinary labradorite-porphyry—a diagnosis which has been confirmed by Dr. H. S. Washington, who has called my attention to his description of this rock type from Essex County, Mass.[1]

Mr. Nickerson told me about the broken bars of the gateway under which the mass was

[1] *Journal of Geology*, Vol. 7, p. 290, 1899.