

of vegetation; when the round is stopped, the sesquioxide and the solution of sulphate in which all the ingredients are bathed are robbed of the oxygen and form pyrite.

The classic laboratory experiments show that organic animal matter acts with greater rapidity and sureness, and the resulting pseudomorphs of sphalerite, chalcopyrite, or pyrite, when a live clam is placed in a saturated solution of a sulphate of the above, are well known. We find them abundantly in nature, in the Trenton rocks as well as in the coal measures.

EDWARD H. WILLIAMS, JR.

THE CROCKER LAND EXPEDITION

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The Crocker Land Expedition which was to have gone northward this summer under the leadership of George Borup and D. B. MacMillan, has been postponed to the summer of 1913, on account of the lamentable death of George Borup and the impracticability of finding a substitute for him in the short time remaining before the expedition was to start.

The Honorary Committee, consisting of President Henry Fairfield Osborn, Mr. Chandler Robbins, General Thomas H. Hubbard and Dr. Walter B. James, and the Committee in Charge, comprised of Dr. E. O. Hovey and Mr. H. L. Bridgman, have begun the reorganization of the expedition along such lines as circumstances may necessitate, without changing the main objects of the enterprise, as set forth in the prospectus issued in January 1912.

Colonel Borup and a number of the principal supporters of the expedition have united in the furtherance of the new plans; the expedition will be a memorial to George Borup, the young explorer who was so keenly interested in it and who was the mainspring of the original undertaking.

Mr. MacMillan's connection with the enterprise continues as heretofore, and he is utilizing the intervening time for the purpose of making additional preparation for the scientific work of the expedition.

A considerable part of the supplies and equipment had been prepared. The prepared

material has been put into safe storage for use next year, while the special apparatus is being assembled at the museum. Subscriptions already made are sufficient to insure the starting of the expedition a year hence.

EDMUND OTIS HOVEY,
HERBERT L. BRIDGMAN,
Committee in Charge

UNIVERSITY CONTROL

LETTERS FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY

I AM on the whole very pleasantly impressed, as you know, with the general constitution that has been worked out at Harvard: a bi-cameral arrangement for the general governing boards; one large academic faculty and several professional faculties for the boards of instruction; comparatively independent divisions and departments, with a considerable range of initiative within their own fields; a president who is, while powerful, still subject to a great many decidedly distinct and potent sorts of checks from alumni and from various boards. This constitution does not seem to me perfect. The president at Harvard has probably still too large a range of discretion. The result is certainly not bad; but is also still subject to further growth. The bi-cameral system (the "overseers" elected by the alumni, able to advise but not to initiate legislation, able also to veto; the "corporation," self-perpetuating and capable of initiating, but always subject to the overseers' veto), seems to me to work well but unevenly, since the overseers have their seasons of too great or too little activity, while the president is probably a little too potent in influencing the corporation legislatively. Nevertheless, I regard the result of the interaction between the "overseers" and the "corporation" as so useful in many crises, and so convenient both in calling out and in holding in check the interests of the alumni, that I can not be convinced of the value of your proposals 1 and 2, if they were regarded as contemplating a constitution intended to take the place of ours. I should say, in place of your proposal (1), that a bi-cameral governing body like ours is preferable to the