

electric line which follows, in general, the line of the Higby Lamentation fault, stops being made to study points of geological interest. A view from a large drumlin afforded an opportunity to recognize the topography resulting from the faulting of the extensive lava sheets of the region—the anterior, main and posterior. A section in the posterior sheet was shown in which what seemed to be the vesicular surface of one flow was covered by the compact lava of a later flow. It was, however, suggested by Professor A. C. Lane that this vesicular lava may have been formed within the lava sheet as is perhaps indicated by its somewhat coarsely crystalline structure. A remarkable section near Westfield, where three faults with their drag dips are well shown, was visited (Bull. VI., Connecticut Geol. and Nat. His. Sur., Fig. 16, p. 213). From here the party walked to other points where drag dips were to be seen and visited the post-glacial Westfield gorge. On account of the rain in the afternoon only a small number ascended Lamentation Mountain. Lunch was served at the Highland Club near Meriden.

The excursion was a most interesting and instructive one, both because it was carefully planned and also because of Professor Rice's lucid explanation of the topographic effects of the great series of faults and the evidences by which the complicated structure of the region was unravelled. The unavoidable absence of Professor W. M. Davis, to whose insight we owe the first clear conception of the relations of the Connecticut traps and sand stones, was greatly regretted.

HERDMAN F. CLELAND

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.,  
October 22, 1912

#### THE PAGEANT AT MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

THE festival procession of the liberal arts and sciences presented on October 8 at the seventy-fifth anniversary of Mount Holyoke College was not only a thing of brilliant beauty but to many it was also a dramatic revelation of the round of human knowledge.

Planned by the faculty and presented by over six hundred students, it expressed to the audience of three thousand people in a wonderfully impressive manner the salient points in the history and ideals of the eighteen subjects represented. The procession passed for two hours through a natural amphitheater surrounded by trees glorious with unusually gay autumn foliage.

The science division was marked by boldness and effectiveness of treatment, combined with richness of coloring and fineness of detail. Heralds clad in rose and yellow were followed by the personification of "Mathematics, the golden key of the sciences." A striking group of mathematicians represented the history of mathematics from the fifteenth century B.C. to the seventeenth century A.D.

The story of man's progress toward a knowledge of heaven and earth was told by the departments of physics and astronomy. The fire-worshippers of primitive times, and a Chaldean priest studying the stars were followed by a number of the great thinkers and experimenters from Aristotle to Franklin. The material and intellectual gifts to humanity, such as the principle of the conservation of energy, the aeroplane, astronomical time, the telegraph, the steam engine, spectrum analysis, the telescope, the cathode ray, suggesting new concepts of matter, were symbolized by graceful figures suggestively costumed.

The hint of new concepts of matter was echoed in the chemistry section which dealt with the historical development of the chemical element. An aged alchemist, Boyle, Lavoisier, Priestley, Davy and Dalton ushered in a throng of dancers representing the elements. At first mingling in confused and unrelated groups in the wild strains of a Russian folk-dance they fell suddenly into harmony at the bidding of Mendelejeff clad in a Russian robe of black and scarlet. The order of the periodic system and the division of the elements into families was suggested by eight groups of four elements each, the members of each group being dressed in varying shades of one color in the following order, gray, pink, brown, green, yellow, blue, tan and lavender. Then

appeared a glittering dancing figure, radium, whose outer robe brilliant with sun-like rays was suddenly cast aside, and gray-gowned helium stood revealed.

A tri-colored banner, brown, green and yellow announced the departments of geology, botany and zoology, their motto being "Dauer im Wechsel," and their subject "Evolution in Nature." The "Sacred Goddess, Mother Earth," Flora from Botticelli's "Primavera," attended by algæ, fungi, ferns, pines and Cattleya orchids, symbolized this thought. Mendel, in monk's garb, followed, accompanied by a group of fruit flies (*drosophila*) with the characteristic red and white eyes, appearing in the ratio of 3:1 in the second generation.

The entire procession showed marvellous unity of thought as well as artistic blending of color and was pronounced by those who witnessed it to have a tangible educational value as well as the quality of dreamy beauty characteristic of the great pageants of the world.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ANDREW D. WHITE, the first president of Cornell University, distinguished for his work in education and diplomacy, and for his publications on history and science, celebrated his eightieth birthday on November 7.

COL. E. E. MARKWICK, C.B., has been elected president of the British Astronomical Association.

AN international conference on time reckoning was opened at the Paris Observatory on October 15 by M. Guist'hau, minister of education; and M. Bigourdan, member of the Institute and of the Bureau des Longitudes, was elected president. The conference has been summoned mainly with the object of dealing with various practical uses of wireless telegraphy in the synchronization of time signals throughout the world.

THE Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers has made the following further awards for papers read during the session 1911-12: A Watt gold medal to Professor W. H. Burr (New York), and the Crampton prize to Professor R. J. Durley (Montreal). The

following Telford premiums have also been awarded for papers published in the proceedings without discussion during the same session: To Messrs. Paul Seurot (New York), David Anderson, and Harry Cunningham (London), Dr. S. P. Smith (Birmingham), Mr. E. G. Rivers (Richmond), Mr. E. H. Morris (Manchester) and Professor A. H. Gibson (Dundee). The Howard quinquennial prize for 1912 has been awarded to Mr. J. H. Darby (Sheffield), in recognition of improvements introduced by him in iron and steel production, and the Indian premium for 1912 to Mr. H. G. Mitchell (Madras).

DR. CHESTER A. REEDS, for four years instructor in geology at Bryn Mawr College, has been appointed assistant curator in the department of geology and invertebrate paleontology of the American Museum of Natural History.

THE government of Siam is planning to construct a public system of irrigation and drainage, and has appointed Mr. William Bradley Freeman, C.E. (Cornell, '05), of Denver, director of the project.

THE *British Medical Journal* states that considerable progress has recently been made in the organization of the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine at Townsville, Queensland. Dr. W. Nicoll, of the Lister Institute, and until recently Ernest Hart scholar of the British Medical Association, has been appointed chief assistant; Dr. Priestley, Beit Memorial scholar, an Australian graduate who for the last year has been working at the Lister Institute, has been appointed second assistant; and Dr. Young, assistant chemist at the Lister Institute, biochemist.

THE University of Pennsylvania museum's yacht, *Pennsylvania*, is ready for its three-year expedition into the Amazon region. Owing to delay caused by negotiations with the Brazilian government, however, the actual start of the expedition will not be made until late in January. Mr. Algot Lange, head of the expedition, will sail for Rio de Janeiro on December 28.