

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MRS. A. D. JULLIARD, of New York, has given \$100,000 to Colorado College for a new gymnasium as a memorial to her father, the late Frederick H. Cossitt.

FIFTY thousand dollars have been bequeathed to the University of Pennsylvania, for two additional dormitory houses, by the late Dr. Richard A. Cleeman, as a memorial to his brother, Ludovic C. Cleeman.

THE Rhode Island State Board of Education has awarded at Brown University scholarships, under the new law providing for an annual appropriation of \$5,000. The recipients of these scholarships number twenty-two, and each is required to make declaration of an intention to follow teaching as a vocation and to give a promise of serving the state as a teacher, principal or superintendent for at least two years.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE has offered £500 as a contribution to the equipment of the Solar Physics Observatory on its installation in Cambridge.

PROFESSOR LEWIS PERRY, who holds the chair of English at Williams College, has been offered the presidency of Wells College, Aurora, N. Y.

MR. W. B. HARDY, M.A., Gonville and Caius, has been appointed university lecturer in physiology at Cambridge University.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ON ORTMANN'S "NOTES UPON THE FAMILIES AND GENERA OF THE NAJADES"

For the malacologist struggling along with the current unnatural and erratic classification of the "river-mussels," Ortmann's "Notes upon the Families and Genera of the Najades"¹ clears up many difficulties. While it has long been admitted that the only key to the natural genera lay in the differentiation of the soft parts, it has remained for this author within the last two years² to break the trammels of convention and indicate the fundamental points of Naiad classification.

¹ *Ann. Carnegie Mus.*, XIII., No. 2, July, 1912.

² "A New System of the Unionidæ," *Nautilus*, XXIII., 1910, pp. 39-42.

At the outset Ortmann calls attention to the difficulty of correlating the characters of the shell with the relationships as indicated by the anatomy and mentions the occurrence of analogous types in unrelated species. In the current number of the *Proceedings of the Malacological Society of London* the writer has discussed this problem with the view of showing that in the more primitive forms the shells were ponderous, subquadrate and possessed a well-developed hinge, while in the more specialized forms the shells are comparatively thin, posteriorly elongate, the hinge tending to become edentate. It has happened in several instances, however, that the degeneration of the hinge has not proceeded *pari passu* with the specialization of the anatomy, but has been accelerated or retarded.

The peculiar structure of the gill of the Margaritanidæ is discussed in some detail. In the writer's opinion the oblique arrangement of the synapticulæ connecting the two lamellæ is not to be correlated with the water tubes of the more specialized Naiad gill, but is merely an incidental feature. Ortmann states that the gills are without septa, but his drawings show them in rudimentary form. They are, however, only united at infrequent intervals, due to a tendency for one or more of the faint but regular bead-like papillæ scattered along their length to develop sufficiently to fuse with its neighbor on the opposite plate, forming one of the scattered interlamellar tissues described. A more extensive fusion of the papillæ would result in the structure occurring in *Hyria*.

The family Unionidæ, as admitted, might with considerable propriety be broken up into several natural groups. The Lampsilinæ are not at all closely allied to the other genera and seem fully entitled to family rank. The group represented by *Quadrula* and that by *Pleurobema* and *Elliptio* are allied and should be placed in the Quadrulidæ (Quadrulinæ Von Ihring) though the two latter genera might be regarded as forming a distinct subfamily owing to the restriction of the brood-pouch to the outer gills. The European Unioninæ are more closely related to the Anodontinæ and to