

plication. A home for alcohol and drug habitués, long agitated, is provided for in another forest reserve as, elsewhere, is an industrial home for women.

It is stated in *Nature* that the Italian archaeological mission to Crete, under the leadership of Professor Halbherr, announces the discovery at Cortina of a temple dedicated to Egyptian deities, bearing the dedication by Flavia Philyra, the foundress. In the inner cella were found images of Jupiter, Serapis, Isis and Mercury, with fragments of a colossal statue, supposed to be that of the foundress. A little flight of steps leads down to a subterranean chamber in which ceremonies of purification were performed. The excavation of the numerous prehistoric sites in the island of Malta is being actively prosecuted under the direction of Professor T. Zammit. The most important discovery is that of a series of well tombs of the Punic type at the Kallilia plateau, northwest of Rabat. A large number of skeletons, with pottery, lamps, spindle-whorls and a circular bronze mirror, has been unearthed. A partial exploration of the Ghar Dalam cave, conducted by Professor Tagliaferro and Mr. C. Rizzo, produced bones of a hippopotamus and a deer, above which lay a quantity of prehistoric sherds. The museum, by the bequest of the late Mr. Parnis, has received a large collection of books about Malta and numerous antique objects.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It is announced that the scheme for the establishment of a school of tropical medicine in Calcutta is now so far advanced towards fulfilment that there is every reason to hope that it will be opened in the autumn of next year.

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER T. ORMOND has resigned the McCosh professorship of philosophy at Princeton University to accept the presidency of Grove City College.

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER SMITH, head of the department of chemistry in Columbia University, who has been elected professor of chem-

istry at Princeton University, will not assume his new duties until the academic year 1914-1915.

THE vacancy created at Vassar College by the resignation of Professor Clark Wells Chamberlain, in order to take the presidency of Denison University, has not been filled; Associate Professor Edna Carter will act as head of the department of physics for the present year.

At Lehigh University the following promotions in the faculty are announced: George C. Beck, to be assistant professor of quantitative analysis; Sylvanus A. Becker, assistant professor of civil engineering; Joseph B. Reynolds, assistant professor of mathematics and astronomy; Rollin L. Charles, assistant professor of physics; Stanley J. Thomas, instructor in biology. The following appointments have been made: Ferdinand F. Hintze, assistant professor of geology; Siegfried Fischer, instructor in metallurgy; Wallace G. Matteson, instructor in geology; Edgar C. Weinsheimer, instructor in geology; M. S. Knebelman, instructor in mathematics; James B. Arthur, instructor in electrical engineering.

At Rutgers College Stanley E. Brasefield, Ph.D. (Cornell), and William Beverly Stone, Ph.D. (Univ. of Va.), have been appointed assistant professors of mathematics.

L. C. PLANT, who has been at the head of the department of mathematics in the University of Montana for the past six years, has resigned, to accept the position of head of the department of mathematics in the Michigan Agricultural College. He has been succeeded by Dr. N. J. Lennes, of the department of mathematics of Columbia University.

DR. WALTER KRUSE, of Bonn, has been appointed professor of hygiene at Leipzig.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

BIT OF HISTORY

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for August 15, 1913, there is quoted from *The Independent* of fifty years ago the statement that "Professor Wollcott Gibbs" had been chosen to the Rumford

chair at Harvard College together with the well-worn comment of

Columbia College a year or two since refused to appoint him to a chemical professorship. Because he did not understand chemistry? No; because he was a Unitarian!

At the time of the death of Professor Gibbs this statement also appeared in several of the "official" sketches that were published. As the story differed somewhat from the one that prevailed at Columbia when I was an undergraduate, I undertook to ascertain the facts for my own satisfaction and have arrived at the following conclusions:

In 1854 Wolcott Gibbs (easily the most distinguished of the many eminent scientists who have graduated from Columbia) was filling the chair of physics and chemistry in the College of the City of New York. He had only recently returned from Europe, where he had studied in Germany under Liebig and in France under Regnault, but had not as yet given any distinct evidence of his brilliant powers as an investigator, nor had he published papers that indicated his great genius.

It was also in that year that a successor was sought at Columbia for the illustrious James Renwick, who since 1820 had added to the prestige of his alma mater by serving her as professor of chemistry.

Various candidates were proposed and among them naturally enough the young alumnus of Columbia, who was then filling acceptably a teaching professorship in the Free Academy, as the City College was then commonly called. The trustees, however, in their wisdom chose Richard McCulloh, a man of more mature years than Gibbs and one who had already given promise of the future by his valuable work on the United States Coast Survey, then the foremost scientific bureau of the national government. That he filled the place satisfactorily is shown by the fact that three years later he was transferred to the chair of mechanics and physics, which he then held until October, 1863, when, as the General Catalogue has it, he "abandoned his post and joined the rebels."

Admirers of Professor Gibbs, however, have ever since persistently contended that Gibbs was rejected because he was a Unitarian, and even an appeal was presented to the New York state legislature¹ in which it was claimed that his rejection was made for sectarian reasons.

That Columbia has always had leanings toward the Protestant Episcopal faith is perhaps most significantly shown by the facts that the Bishop of New York and the rector of Trinity Church are ex-officio members of the board of trustees. But it must be remembered so also is the senior minister of the Dutch Reformed Church; and also again it must be remembered, that no evidence has ever been presented as to the faith of Professor McCulloh.

Much as I regret the decision of the trustees in depriving Columbia of the services of him, who, in the paths of science proved himself to be her most eminent alumnus, and also who ever inspired those who were so fortunate as to study under him with a true love of science, nevertheless, in these modern days, when church unity is the hope of so many, is it not time to cease the persistent criticism of Columbia for her sectarianism and to accept the more reasonable conclusion, entirely consistent with the facts, that McCulloh was chosen to the faculty because the trustees believed him to be the better man and not because Gibbs was a Unitarian.

MARCUS BENJAMIN

THE LAW OF PRIORITY

ON general principles it can not be denied

¹ Professor J. H. Van Amringe, Columbia's most beloved alumnus, in a recent letter, calls my attention to the fact that in response to this appeal a committee of the New York Senate was appointed to ascertain whether the trustees had required any "religious qualifications or test from any candidate as a condition of any professorship in said college." As a result of the inquiries the committee "arrived at the clear and decided conviction that there had been no such violation." See "A History of Columbia University. 1754-1904," New York, 1904, page 129.