

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that the residue of the estate of the late Hamilton B. Tompkins, of New York City, left in his will to Hamilton College, amounts to \$650,000.

THE salary endowment fund of Vassar College has reached the sum of \$3,030,000.

A RESEARCH fellowship of \$1,000 for the study of orthopedics in relation to hygiene and physical education will be offered by Wellesley College, beginning in September and continuing for one year.

DR. FRANK I. KERN, professor of botany, has been appointed dean of the newly established Graduate School of the Pennsylvania State College.

M. D. HERSEY, associate professor of physics, R. P. Bigelow, R. R. Lawrence and H. W. Shimer have been promoted to full professorships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Bigelow will be professor of zoology and parasitology; Professor Lawrence is a member of the electrical engineering department; Dr. Shimer will be professor of paleontology.

DR. R. E. COKER, M.S. (North Carolina), Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins), head of the division of scientific inquiry of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, has been elected to a professorship of zoology in the University of North Carolina.

GEOGRAPHERS who received their doctorates at Chicago have recently been promoted as follows: To a professorship, Carl O. Sauer, at the University of Michigan. To associate professorships, Stephen S. Visher, at Indiana University; Wellington D. Jones and Charles C. Colby, at the University of Chicago. To assistant professorships, Robert S. Platt and Derwent S. Whittlesey, also at Chicago.

At the University of Kansas, assistant professor Curt Rosenow has been promoted to an associate professorship in psychology and Dr. Hulsey Cason (Columbia, '22) has been appointed assistant professor of psychology.

DR. ELWOOD S. MOORE, dean of the School of Mines of the Pennsylvania State College,

has resigned, to take charge of the work in economic geology at the University of Toronto.

DR. JOHN MACPHERSON, lately retired from the post of commissioner of the Board of Control for Scotland, has accepted for three years the professorship of psychiatry at the University of Sydney.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

OBSERVATIONS OF FALLING METEORITES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The numerous recently reported occurrences of falling meteorites are so contradictory and so at variance with what reason would lead one to expect as to make one quite cynical concerning the value of human testimony.

Few natural phenomena, it may be stated by way of introduction, are more likely to unduly excite the imagination than those attendant upon a fall of meteorites. The suddenness, the unexpected nature of the occurrence, the light and noise, and perhaps above all the sensation of fear aroused when a solid body is suddenly projected from seemingly empty space, all have effect, and it is not surprising that accounts are widely variable—dependent upon the flexibility of the imagination, more perhaps than upon powers of observation. Few persons, however well trained, can look calmly and critically upon the phenomena. Fewer yet can, in the brief space of time, estimate the height of the body when first seen, or note such facts as may be of service in calculating its direction and rate of progress.

A peculiar feature of the case is the lack of ability on the part of an observer to locate the place of fall unless, indeed, he happens to actually see it strike the ground. This is due to several causes, and, in part at least, to the low angle at which the stones sometimes enter our atmosphere, which permits a continuation of flight for some distance, even miles, beyond the point at which they seemingly must strike the earth, and in part to the fact that one is unable to correctly estimate the distance, which may be much greater than supposed. No less an experienced student and collector than the late H. A. Ward once told the writer of his