

collected by Professor R. B. Harvey, of the University of Minnesota. Due to the favorable arrangements made by the government, it is expected that cost of attendance will be kept very low, and that considerable numbers of students will avail themselves of the opportunities afforded to combine natural history training with a summer outing.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

WESTERN UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE, of London, Ontario, will receive bequests amounting to \$110,000 under the will of the late Dr. F. R. Eccles, who for many years was dean of the faculty of medicine of the university.

DR. JOHN PURSER, Regius professor of physics at Trinity College, Dublin, has given to the university £10,000 to be used for the benefit of the school of physics and the schools of experimental and natural science.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, London, will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its foundation next year.

THE new Seoul Imperial University Medical School is completed and will be opened in the near future. Dr. K. Shiga has been appointed dean of the school.

DR. VICTOR C. MYERS, professor and director of the department of biochemistry, New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital, has resigned to accept the appointment of professor of biochemistry at the State University of Iowa and pathologic chemist to the University Hospital.

DR. ARTHUR I. KENDALL, dean of the Northwestern University Medical School, has been appointed director of the department of bacteriology and hygiene at Washington University Medical School, St. Louis.

DR. H. P. K. AGERSBORG, instructor in biology at Williams College, has been appointed professor of biology and head of the department, at the James Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois.

DR. L. GRANT HECTOR, Tyndall fellow in physics at Columbia University, has been appointed assistant professor of physics in the University of Buffalo.

DR. GEORGE JOHNSON, professor of zoology at the University of Mississippi, has been appointed professor of zoology at the University of Kansas, to take the place of Dr. F. L. Hisaw, who has accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin.

EDWARD ARTHUR MILNE, assistant director of the Solar Physics Observatory at the University of Cambridge, has been appointed to the Beyer chair of applied mathematics at the University of Manchester.

QUOTATIONS

SOME REMINISCENCES OF LORD KELVIN

IT is of interest at the present time to recall that Lord Kelvin, Sir George Stokes and Professor Huxley were elected fellows of the Royal Society in the same year and on the the same day, namely, June 5, 1851. Each of this brilliant triumvirate lived to receive the honor of the presidency, in 1883, 1885 and 1890, respectively. The certificate of candidature of Lord Kelvin (William Thomson) was signed by Michael Faraday, John Couch Adams and Adam Sedgwick, the distinguished Woodwardian professor of geology in the University of Cambridge. In retrospect, the support of Sedgwick is especially interesting since we know, through Sir Archibald Geikie, that from the year 1844 onwards for some eighteen years Lord Kelvin watched with increasing impatience the spread of the doctrines of the Uniformitarian School in geology, and at length, in 1862, "broke silence on the subject, declaring the doctrines of that school to be opposed to physical laws." It was one of the accepted tenets of the Uniformitarian School that the range of past time available for the explanation of the phenomena of geology was unlimited; but by arguments drawn from the origin and age of the sun's heat, the internal heat and rate of cooling of the earth, and the tidal retardation of the earth's rotation, Lord Kelvin fixed limits to the possible age of our planet. These have, of course, more recently been disputed. Lord Kelvin was always most punctilious in correspondence. Following the onerous engagements incidental to the celebration of his professional jubilee at Glasgow in 1896, he occupied himself on the way to London in writing autograph acknowledgments of the congratulation of friends. Not a few of his distinctive shorter papers were composed during railway journeys between Glasgow and London. In fact, wherever there was motion he found an atmosphere of calm, the hum of machinery acting as a mental stimulus. Mention may be made here that Lord Kelvin's portrait, by Orchardson, hangs in the Royal Society's meeting-room, the gift of a circle of fellows.—*Nature*.

EVOLUTION IN GEORGIA

By a vote of 13 to 0 the Committee on Education of the Lower House of the Georgia Legislature has reported favorably a bill which would withhold state support from any school or university in which the doctrine of evolution is accepted for study. The down-with-evolution movement, which began in the border states some three years ago, moves eastward to the seaboard. The Georgia Legislature is likely, by all reports, to enact the measure. A majority of Georgians seem to want to suppress evolution once for all.

For a time this attitude on the part of border

Southerners was more amusing than anything else. It appeared incredible that any body of mature citizens of the United States could seriously dispute the scientific explanation of the origin of species. But the matter has gone, like the Ku Klux Klan, far beyond a joke. There are communities and states in this country which have not caught up with the England of 1875 in their thinking.

It is, of course, no crime to hold evolution to be an invention of the devil for corrupting souls. It is no crime to believe the earth flat, a belief long held in much the same positive manner. There was a famous Negro preacher who made his stand for righteousness on the assertion that "the sun do move and the earth am square," proving his faith by Biblical quotation. It is only regrettable that the children who must get their schooling in backward communities must absorb so much darkness along with their A B C's.—*New York World*.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

EDWARD HITCHCOCK AND THE ORIGIN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOLOGISTS

PROFESSOR FAIRCHILD, in his historical sketch of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in *SCIENCE* for April 25, 1924, mentions the various conflicting views in the early accounts touching the priority of suggestion for calling a conference of American geologists.

In a paper on Edward Hitchcock, read at a meeting of the Science Club of Amherst College a few years since,¹ the present writer expressed the following opinion:

To Hitchcock, more than to any other man, is due the title of founder of the Association of American Geologists—the forerunner and parent of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The first written suggestion in regard to the formation of this association came from him. At a meeting held at the rooms of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, on April 2, 1840, the association was organized, and he was chosen president, being the first of a long line of American savants to receive this distinction.²

As early as 1837, and possibly earlier, Professor Hitchcock had approached the leading American geologists and a few other scientists in regard to his "hobby," namely, "a meeting of our geologists." The letters and passages cited below, relative to the genesis

of the parent society, show this and are also in accord with the suggestion in Mather's letter to Emmons, respecting a conference, "but saying that he had received the idea from Edward Hitchcock."

Professor Hitchcock, Dear Sir: I received, a few days since, the Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, first meeting, held in Philadelphia, September, 1848; and in it, page 91, I found a letter from Professor Hall, and observed with some surprise the latter part of the sentence of the second paragraph, (relating to Professor Vanuxem), viz.: "and to whom is due, above all others, the honor of being the first man to propose such an organization." Now I do not wish to detract at all from the merit due to Professor Vanuxem; and perhaps Professor Hall made the representation from memory only, or from hearsay, on the spur of the occasion; but that which belongs to the history of the Association of American Geologists ought, if stated where it will be referred to, to be stated accurately. You know that he was not the first to propose such an organization in 1838.

In 1837 I received a letter from you on this subject. . . . On the 12th of October, 1838, you wrote me at Albany, . . . in which you say: "And I had also hoped that ere this a meeting of American Geologists would be brought about in New York or Philadelphia; but I feel that I am to be disappointed in this also." It gives me much pleasure to see you express a wish to compare notes with others in relation to geological observations. I think it is much to be regretted that there is not greater harmony of feeling, unity of action and interchange of opinions and observations among our geologists. You, so far as I know, first suggested the matter of such an association. I laid the matter before the Board of Geologists of New York, specifying some of the advantages that might be expected to result; and Professor Vanuxem probably made the motion before the Board in regard to it, which may have been all that Professor Hall knew about it. We can each of us well dispense with the honor that might be awarded for originating the matter in one case, and putting in train for execution in the other: still, where the origin of an important society and association of scientific men for the advancement of science is recorded in its memoirs as historical fact, it ought to be stated *correctly*.³

In a letter of Edward Hitchcock⁴ to Henry D. Rogers, at that time in charge of the geological survey of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, dated Amherst, Mass., April 4, 1838, Professor Hitchcock says:

I want that you, with such other geologists as you choose to associate with you in Philadelphia and New York, should forthwith appoint a time and place and issue a circular summoning a meeting of our geologists. And it seems to me important that this should be done

¹ *The Amherst Graduates' Quarterly*, Vol. X, 1920, p. 1.

² Hitchcock's address as retiring president, "on the most important points in American geology," was first printed in full in the *Amer. Journ. Sci.* Vol. 41, 1841, pp. 232-275.

³ Letters of William W. Mather to Edward Hitchcock.

⁴ "Life and Letters of William Barton Rogers," Vol. I, p. 154.