

IN spite of the anti-toxin treatment, the epidemic of diphtheria in London continues; the number of deaths during the week ending November 30th was 63, which is 24 more than the average for the previous ten years.

DR. DONALDSON SMITH, who left England in the Summer of 1893, with the object of exploring Lakes Budolph and Stephanie, has just reached Plymouth, England. Since February nothing had been heard of him, until a telegram from Aden, at the beginning of November, announced the success of the expedition, and the arrival of Dr. Smith at that place. Dr. Smith will read a paper before the Royal Geographical Society next month, and in January will return to America, where an account of his travels will be published.

THE late Professor Verneuil is succeeded in the Paris Academy of Sciences by M. Lannelongue (who received 36 votes, while M. Ollier received 22), and in the Paris Academy of Medicine by M. C. H. Monod.

THE new anatomical and physiological laboratories of the University of Glasgow were opened on November 18th.

*The Lancet* states that the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh has purchased, at a cost exceeding \$35,000, property on which a laboratory will be erected.

SIR HENRY ACLAND was presented, on December 4th, with a testimonial to commemorate his services during the forty years for which he has held the office of Regius professorship of medicine in the University of Oxford. A bust will be placed in the University Museum and over \$15,000 will be given to the Sarah Acland home for nurses.

WE announced last week the death of Henry Seebohm, one of the most eminent and best known of British ornithologists. Mr. Seebohm was an explorer as well as an ornithologist, and his delightful volumes '*Siberia in Asia*' and '*Siberia in Europe*' brought him a wide circle of readers. Among the best known of his bird books are '*A History of British Birds*' (3 vols.), '*Monograph of the Plovers, Snipes and Sandpipers*' and '*Birds of the Japanese Empire*.' Several of his works are richly illustrated by colored

plates. Seebohm followed no leader, and his numerous writings are always vigorous, interesting and original. Personally he was genial and generous, and his death will be sadly felt on both sides of the Atlantic.

WE regret to record the death of the Rev. Timothy O. Paine, a well known Egyptian scholar, on December 6th; of Professor W. N. Popoff, lecturer on physiology in the University of Dorpat, and of Dr. G. Krabbe, of the University of Berlin, on November 3rd, at the age of 80 years.

LORD KELVIN in his anniversary address before the Royal Society described the steps that have been taken towards the publication of an index of scientific literature. Through a gift from Mr. Ludwig Mond, F. R. S., \$10,000 is available for the expenses of cataloguing, and there are now twelve copyists engaged in the work. About 140,000 slips have been mounted and classified. Lord Kelvin referred to the International Institute of Bibliography established in Brussels, but says that this will not interfere with the International Conference to which invitations have been issued for July of next year.

IN view of the approaching quinquennial census to be taken in 1896 in both France and England, it is interesting to compare the population of the two countries. In 1801 France possessed a population more than eleven millions greater than Great Britain and Ireland, whereas in 1891 the excess of population in France was less than one-half million. It is probable that the population of the United Kingdom is now the greater. In the two years 1892 and 1893 the deaths outnumbered the births in France, whereas in the United Kingdom there were nearly a million more births than deaths.

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#### EDUCATIONAL NOTES AND NEWS.

MISS HELEN CULVER signed papers on December 14th giving \$1,000,000 to the University of Chicago to be used for the biological departments. This gift carries with it \$1,000,000 conditionally pledged by Mr. John D. Rockefeller on November 2d. It is probable that a school of medicine will be established.

THE *Academische Revue* states that the University Extension Movement in connection with the University of Vienna is meeting with much success. The first courses now being given number twenty-four, and in the first week 1,916 auditors were registered. The largest attendance (350) is in the course in anatomy, offered by Prof. Zuckerkandl. Each course is composed of six lectures, and the fee for attendance on the course is only about 20 cents. A small appropriation (about \$2,000) has been made by the government toward the expenses of the movement. Vienna is the first German University, with the possible exception of Berne, to inaugurate University Extension.

IN May of the present year the Universities of St. Petersburg, Moscow and Kieff replied to an inquiry from the Minister of Education unanimously favoring the establishment of laboratories of psychology in all of these universities. A committee of eight professors from the University of Kieff have petitioned for about \$3,000 for the establishment of a laboratory of psychology, and a yearly appropriation of \$300.

PROF. E. OTIS KENDALL, since 1855 professor in the University of Pennsylvania, has resigned his position of Flower professorship of astronomy, but remains the nominal head of the department of mathematics and honorary dean and vice-provost.

PRESIDENT HILL, of Rochester University, has consented to postpone until the first of January his resignation from the presidency. His action is due to an address adopted unanimously by members of the faculty, urging him to retain his position.

DR. HERBERT NICHOLS, formerly instructor in psychology in Harvard University, has been appointed lecturer in psychology in Johns Hopkins University.

CARLETON COLLEGE, Northfield, Minn., has received \$8,000 bequeathed by James H. Carleton, among other charitable bequests which now take effect on the death of his sister.

A NEW University, entitled *Université Nouvelle*, with power to confer degrees in all faculties, has been established in Brussels under the control of socialistic leaders. Among the professors are the geographer Prof. Elisée Reclus and the

jurist Prof. Enrico Ferri, both of whom were unable to hold positions in their own countries. The opening address of the Rector Professor Janson urged that property should only be acquired by labor and that the State should be the only heir. Sixty students were matriculated at the opening of the University, the future of which will be followed with interest.

PROF. RUTH has been appointed professor of geodesy in the Technical High School of Prague and Dr. v Rudzki assistant professor of mathematics in the University of Krakau. Dr. Kempf and Dr. Wilsing, astronomers at Potsdam, and Dr. E. Buchner, a chemist of Kiel, have been appointed to professorships. Dr. C. von Twardowski, privatdocent in the University of Vienna, has been elected assistant professor in philosophy in the University of Lemberg.

#### CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION.

##### A LAST WORD ON ERECT VISION.

I SAY 'last word' because I hope it may be the last I shall say on this subject at present, fearing that I have already occupied too much space, and not in the sense of a final solution. In the latter sense the last word is never said on any scientific question, much less on this question which has been discussed for two centuries and will probably be for two centuries more. But I wish, if possible, to state clearly the question as it seems to me, so that I shall not be misunderstood.

I agree with Prof. Minot that erect vision is *acquired by experience*. Yes, but *not by individual experience*. For the individual it is undoubtedly an inherited capacity—an endowment. It is acquired by experience, true; but by experience along the whole line of the evolution of the animal kingdom, and especially of the eye; and more and more fixed in brain structure or mental structure; until finally it is thoroughly inherited as any other capacity. This is, it seems to me, proved by cases of operation for congenital blindness from double cataract in persons sufficiently old to have acquired definite ideas of position in space by means of other senses. I refer now to only one carefully observed case recorded in the *Revue Scientifique*, Vol. 50, p. 571, 1892. An intelligent child,