

nearly all organs. The substance of the brain is particularly well preserved, areas of softening, hemorrhages, and pus in the pia mater being very well demonstrated.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE fourth annual report of President Schurman, of Cornell University, has been presented to the trustees at an early date. The report extends to 79 pages with appendices of about the same length and gives a full account of the recent progress and present condition of the University. We have already noted the new appointments and other enlargements such as the establishment of the State Veterinary College. The total number of students in the university last year was 1,702. The absolute and relative increase in those taking scientific courses is shown to be as follows:

	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96
Arts.....	142	141	138	133	146
Philosophy..	100	110	121	136	153
Science .....	82	89	89	115	144
Letters.....	94	82	85	65	50

There has, however, been a decrease in the number of students attending the technical courses, owing to the fact that the requirements for admission were advanced in 1894.

IN view of the destruction of the main building of Mt. Holyoke College by fire, the trustees are considering the removal of the College from South Hadley. Springfield and Worcester have been mentioned as possible locations for the College.

THE councils of University College and King's College, London, have inaugurated a series of lectures and demonstrations of university character for the benefit of students unable to attend in the day time. The program for the present session includes courses on mechanical engineering, on electrical engineering and on practical chemistry by the professors at University College, and courses on civil engineering, on architecture, on experimental and practical physics and on pure mathematics by the professors at King's College.

THE Woman's College of Baltimore has recently received, as a gift from the Rev. George C. Stull, of Butte, Montana, a collection of

about 200 Montana ores and minerals. The specimens are carefully determined, labeled and catalogued, and are accompanied by chemical analysis. Gold, silver, copper and antimony are well represented, and the whole collection makes a nearly complete series of the ores and useful minerals from Montana.

THE Enoch Pratt Free Library, of Baltimore, has just completed the building of its sixth branch library. It is situated near the Woman's College, and will be largely used by the students. The librarian, Dr. Steiner, has requested lists of desired books from the professors of the College. Lists of scientific books have been sent by Dr. Metcalf and Miss Bunting, of the biological department.

BISHOP J. J. KEANE, rector of the Catholic University of America, in Washington, has resigned at the request of Pope Leo XIII.

WILLIAM S. EICHELBERGER, PH. D., for the past four years instructor in mathematics and astronomy at Wesleyan University, has resigned, to accept a position in the Nautical Almanac Office in the Naval Department at Washington, D. C.

AT the New York University Dr. T. W. Edmondson has been appointed associate professor of physics, and Mr. J. H. MacCracken instructor in philosophy. Prof. W. M. Warren has been promoted to a full professorship of philosophy in Boston University. At Williams College Dr. H. M. Knowler has been appointed instructor in biology and Mr. J. R. Congdon assistant in physics.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE GEOLOGY OF BLOCK ISLAND.

AN article with the above title by Prof. O. C. Marsh, in the *American Journal of Science* for October, 1896 (pp. 295-298), is chiefly remarkable for the manner in which the work of previous observers is ignored and the ingenuous way in which well-known facts are stated as if they were original discoveries by the author. The structure of the Island was described by both Upham\* and Merrill,† and the parallelism be-

\* *Am. Journ. Sci.*, xviii. (1879), p. 92.

† *Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, xv. (1895), pp. 16-19.

tween the Block Island strata and those of Long Island and the islands to the eastward was commented upon by them and by others. If the article in question went no further than this it would attract but little attention. The conclusions which the author draws, however, are so startling that they require the earnest consideration of everyone who has ever had any experience in the geology of the region.

For example: "The well-known clay deposits of Long Island I have not carefully examined in place. *There is much in the published description of them, however, to indicate that they may represent some of the same Jurassic beds.*"

Inasmuch as the present writer thought that the Cretaceous age of the clays at Glen Cove, Northport, etc., had been thoroughly proven and the Tertiary age of others had at least been satisfactorily indicated,\* the above surmise is highly interesting and any proofs of their Jurassic age are anxiously awaited.

Again, "The clay bluffs at Gay Head, in Martha's Vineyard have many characteristics of the same series, but the presence of Cetacean remains in one portion of them indicates that this is Tertiary. There are, however, some reasons for supposing that the most of the clays are much older, *and I believe that they contain representatives of the same great Jurassic formation.*"

As these deposits have been amply proven, by David White,† Merrill,‡ Shaler,§ and the writer,|| to consist of Cretaceous and later strata, the expression of a mere belief in regard to their Jurassic age seems somewhat superfluous.

In a postscript the author says that since his article was in print he has visited Long Island and Martha's Vineyard, and states: "On Martha's Vineyard I found that the great series of variegated clays forming Gay Head, *and gener-*

*ally regarded as Tertiary, are certainly Mesozoic, and all apparently Jurassic.*"

In view of what has already been proven, the above statement is the most surprising of all, and as he concludes with the promise, "I hope soon to discuss this subject more fully elsewhere," the appearance of the discussion is looked for with great interest.

[The italics in the text are mine. A. H.]

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#### THE CURVE-TRACING TOP.

IN reply to Mr. C. B. Warring's suggestion of smoked surfaces, I would say that two of my students have for some time been engaged in computing the moment of inertia of the top from its mass, the radius of the point, the dip, the instantaneous period of precession and the difference of the cardinal radii of curvature of the curves drawn very nearly the maximum distance between two consecutive spires. They have tried lampblack surfaces, but have given them up because the substance is apt to flake off at sharp angles and the curves are not satisfactory. Mr. Warring's own design bears this out. Moreover, Mr. Warring seems to have missed the point of my article. I value the result in proportion to the simplicity of the means employed. To use lampblack and varnish is to go much out of one's way.

C. BARUS.

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#### NEW APPLES.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: As a contribution to your freak apple discussion in your issue of September 4th, where the phenomenon is described as a pollen phenomenon, and continued in your issue of October 2d, I send the following cutting from John Lewis Child's Fall Catalogue of 1896:

"*Two-Faced*—We never brought out a more unique novelty than this. It originated in Cayuga county, N. Y., and the original tree has been known for many years, but this is the first time it has ever been propagated and put upon the market. The tree bears an apple which is in size and shape similar to the Tallman Sweet; its peculiarity being that every fruit

\* *Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, xii. (1893), pp. 222-337; *ibid.* xiii. (1894), pp. 122-129. *Bull. Torr. Bot. Club*, xxi. (1894), pp. 49-65. *Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, xv. (1895), pp. 3-10.

† *Am. Journ. Sci.*, xxxix. (1890), pp. 93-101; *Bull. Geol. Soc. Am.*, i. (1890), pp. 554, 555.

‡ *Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, iv. (1885), pp. 78, 79.

§ *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, xvi., No. 5 (1889), pp. 89-97.

|| *Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, xiii. (1893), pp. 8-22; *Bull. Geol. Soc. Am.*, vii. (1895), pp. 12-14.