

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE regents of the University of the State of New York will hereafter strictly enforce the law prohibiting the unauthorized use of the names college and university. An institution to be ranked as a college must have at least six professors giving their entire time to college and university work and a course of four full years of college grade in liberal arts and sciences, and must require for admission four years of academic or high school preparation in addition to the preacademic or grammar school studies. The regents believe it sound educational policy to encourage the establishment and maintenance of colleges wherever these minimum conditions can be met. The small college follows naturally the high school, and the more widely it is scattered about the country the better for higher education, but to give college instruction is a very different matter from exercising university powers in conferring degrees. The council earnestly recommended, as vitally important for protecting and promoting higher educational interests, that the regents should not, except for extraordinary reasons, increase the number of institutions in this State holding degree-conferring powers. Students completing the courses in colleges newly established may obtain from the university of the State the bachelor's degree, which will be more valuable and more widely recognized than a degree conferred by a local institution.

THE will of the late Miss Abby G. Beckwith leaves \$5,000 to Brown University for the founding of two Scholarships.

THE first graduate of the University of Wales by examination is a woman, Miss Maria Dawson, B. S.

PROF. HOELDER, of Tübingen, has been appointed professor of mathematics in the University at Königsberg; Prof C. von Seelenhorst, of Jena, assistant professor in the University of Göttingen, and Dr. H. Stühr, assistant in the Anatomical Institute at Breslau, in succession to Dr. Endres; Dr. Andreas Obrzut, of Prague, to the chair of anatomy at Lemberg. Dr. Joseph Blaas, of the University at Innsbrück, has been promoted to an assistant professorship of geology and paleontology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

A REPREHENSIBLE METHOD OF DETERMINING PRIORITY OF PUBLICATION.

QUESTIONS of nomenclature and of priority of discovery in relation to matters of fact must, of course, be decided by the date of publication of the works in which the names of the species or the facts in question were first announced; hence it is important to determine the date of publication with the greatest possible definiteness. It is, therefore, necessary to define at the outset what is meant by the term publication. On this point the 'Century Dictionary' will be admitted as good authority. In this work the word publication, in the sense in which it is used in the present article, is defined as follows: "The act of offering a book, map, piece of music, or the like, to the public by sale or by gratuitous distribution." Publication thus implies distribution, and has no necessary relation to the date of printing, except that, of course, printing must precede publication.

Unfortunately, however, it is often difficult to determine the exact date when a book, pamphlet, or any regular part of a serial publication, or the signature of any work issued in signatures, became accessible to the public, or even to those especially interested in the subject to which the treatise relates; in a word, when it was *published*, or, to use the 'Century Dictionary' expression, *when it was offered to the public*.

We have only to look through the various codes of nomenclature for biology to find that the matter of determining the 'date of publication' has received attention from those who have made this question the subject of special consideration. The rule generally adopted by scientific bodies which have legislated on the subject is to the effect that the ostensible date, as that given on the title page of a book or pamphlet, or at the bottom of the signatures, when works are issued in signatures, shall be taken as the correct date, unless known to be erroneous, and that whenever such dates are found to be erroneous the true date of publication shall be taken in all cases where it can be established. The date of printing is thus wholly ignored as having any bearing on the