

far more nutritious and did not create biliousness, as did cocoa and coffee, nor nervous excitability, as in the case of tea, so that the problem of "What may we drink?" might probably be solved. A number of these plants were propagated at Kew in 1880 and distributed to Calcutta, Ceylon, Zanzibar, Demerara, Dominica, Sydney, Mauritius, Java, Singapore and Toronto, where the nuts were now produced. It had been reported from Jamaica that if a demand should arise for them the nuts could be shipped to the extent of many tons per year. Notwithstanding its important properties, it is only lately that any great demand has arisen for the production. As a medical agent it is specially valuable as a powerful nerve stimulant. The kola nuts may supply a valuable medicine to the pharmacopœia, as Mr. Sowerby states, but it is doubtful whether the Kew Gardens have done a philanthropic work in extending its use. It is already sold in large quantities, both in Great Britain and America, and while it may itself be no more harmful than coffee, when mixed with from 10 to 25 per cent. of alcohol, as is usually the case, it becomes a powerful and dangerous intoxicant. The fact that it is sold at apothecaries, often to women and children, rather than in saloons does not decrease the harm that it does.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

IN amplification of the note published last week in this JOURNAL regarding the gifts of Mr. W. C. McDonald to McGill University, Montreal, we are informed that the endowment consists in the foundation of an additional chair of chemistry. It will be remembered that Mr. McDonald recently erected a new chemical building at a cost of \$240,000. Mr. McDonald has further now given an additional endowment of fifty thousand dollars for the Faculty of Law, to the Deanship of which Faculty, with the chair of Roman Law, Mr. E. P. Walton, of the Scotch bar, was recently appointed. Mr. McDonald has, moreover, supplemented the existing endowments associated with his name by a further gift of \$200,000, to provide for any deficiency in income that may result from the fall in the rate of interest on investments.

THE sum of \$45,000 has now been collected for a Science Hall for Syracuse University. It is expected that the erection of the building will be begun in the spring.

MRS. GEORGE SMELTZ, of Hampton, Va., has given \$5,000 to Richmond College, to be used in the erection of a science building.

A NEW building for the biological laboratory was begun at Adelbert College in October, and will probably be completed in September, 1898. The building is of Gothic design and is to be built of stone, three stories high and basement. The outside dimensions are about 93 by 63 feet. The estimated cost with equipment is \$43,000.

WITH the October Convocation the University of Chicago closed its first period of five years of graduate work, during which it conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy on seventy-seven candidates, distributed among the several departments as follows: Zoology, 12; Chemistry, 6; History, 6; English, 6; Sociology, 5; Semitic, 5; Political Economy, 4; Germanic, 4; Greek, 3; Romance, 3; Geology, 3; Physiology, 3; Mathematics, 2; Indo-European Comparative Philology, 2; Physics, 2; Anthropology, 2; Philosophy, 1; Botany, 1; Biblical and Patristic Greek, 1; Political Science, 1; Paleontology, 1; Comparative Religion, 1; Old Testament Literature, 1; Systematic Theology, 1; Church History, 1; not represented, Anatomy, Archæology, Astronomy, Latin and Neurology. The student of science may fairly ask whether, when twelve doctorates are conferred in zoology and but three in Latin and Greek combined, this means that there is less demand for teachers of the classics or that a less exacting preparation is required.

WE quoted in a recent issue the statement of the principal of the 'late' Evelyn College to the effect that the College had been closed because Princeton University refused to recognize its work for the higher education of women. A correspondent fully acquainted with the facts writes us: "Evelyn College was closed on account of bad debts, and in the opinion of its own board of trustees should have been closed some time ago. So far from giving the institution the cold shoulder the University authorities allowed

their names and the University name to be freely used. Various professors expended much time and effort on their courses in Evelyn, and continued to do so, though generally failing to receive the small stipend which was promised them. Certain University officers, both faculty and trustees, served on the Evelyn board, but resigned because they could not approve of the way the institution was financially managed. Seeing that Evelyn College was closed only after the patience of everybody in Princeton, from tradesmen to trustees, was tried to the utmost, and the courtesies of the authorities strained to the breaking point, it is necessary that such a misstatement of the facts should be corrected." These facts do not apparently relieve Princeton University from the responsibility of being the only considerable university in the world that does not provide in any way for the higher education of women.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### BEHRING SEA CONFERENCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have read with great interest the article on the results of the Behring Sea conferences, published in your number of November 26th (SCIENCE, N. S., Vol. VI., p. 781), which puts forward what is, I believe, the view of the 'seal question' held by most naturalists in every country in a clear and temperate manner. I venture to point out to you that more than four years ago I endeavored to place the question in a somewhat similar light before the British public in an article entitled 'A Naturalist's View of the Fur-Seal Question,' published in *The Nineteenth Century* for June, 1893, Vol. XXXIII., p. 1038). I beg leave to add an extract from this article in order to show the conclusions to which I had then arrived: "The absolute prohibition of 'pelagic' sealing which is demanded by the Americans, and which out to be carried out in order to ensure the continued existence of the fur-seals, can only be obtained by mutual arrangement among the parties interested. The fur-seal of Alaska (practically now the only remaining members of the group of fur-seals) should be declared to be, to all intents and purposes, a domestic animal, and its capture abso-

lutely prohibited except in its home on the Pribilof Islands. Looking to the great value of the privilege thus obtained, America might well consent to pay to Great Britain and her colonists some compensation for the loss of the right of 'pelagic' sealing; the amount of this compensation would be fairly based upon the number of fur-seals annually killed upon the Pribilof Islands. The 'royalty' thus levied would no doubt increase the price of seal-skin jackets. But seal-skin jackets are not a necessary luxury, and an additional pound added to their cost would not be of material consequence to the ladies who wear them. As a naturalist, therefore, I think that the fur-seal should be considered in the light of a domestic animal, and that all 'pelagic' sealing should be stopped, while the owners of the sealeries should at the same time pay to the other nations interested a reasonable compensation for the valuable privileges thus obtained."

P. L. SCLATER.

3, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.

December 15, 1897.

##### THE ENCHANTED MESA.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Referring to your postscript to my letter written in response to a communication to SCIENCE by Professor Libbey, I take the liberty of saying that, as the gentleman mentioned has *not* stated positively that *he* erected the stone monument on the summit of the Enchanted Mesa, one must reach such a conclusion only by inference. My reasons for not accepting anything short of a statement couched in unmistakable terms are based on what Professor Libbey has already contributed to the literature of the Enchanted Mesa. In the first place (*Princeton Press*, July 31) he says:

"No traces of former inhabitants were found. Further, no altars or traces of prayer sticks were found. \* \* \* Not the slightest trace was found which would enable me to believe that a human foot had *ever before passed* over the top of this famous rock."

Again (*Princeton Press*, August 21) he says:

"For two hours I walked over the surface of the rock. \* \* \* It is a splendid site for a pueblo, if some means of access could be de-