

standard weight of 50 pounds will be so satisfactory that before long the old-fashioned 'hundredweight' of 112 pounds will be entirely abolished along with the stone, and that a decimal fractional system of 5 pounds, 10 pounds, and 25 pounds will come into general use.

WE learn from the London *Times* that the first meeting for the session of the Geologists' Association, held recently, took the form of a *conversazione*, held in the library of University College, London. The most important geological exhibits were the erratics from Hertfordshire, and the faceted pebbles from Berkshire and Oxfordshire, shown by Dr. Salter; the Hertfordshire pudding-stones by Mr. Green, and the iron, flint and lime concretions, closely resembling animal forms, sent by Dr. Abbitt. The small erratics are of great interest, as it is not easy to account for the presence of rhomboid porphyry of Norwegian origin on the uplands of Hertfordshire. On this subject Dr. Salter intends to publish a paper, advancing another theory than that generally accepted—the transportation by ice across the North Sea. The faceted pebbles of banded quartzite were probably worn down by a natural sand-blast. Anthropology was well represented. The Rev. R. Ashington Bullen showed prehistoric implements; as did Mr. Elliott, whose exhibits included photographs of and implements from the Mentone caves. Among the other exhibits were worked Chinese jade, collections of fossil mollusca, photographs and maps, and other objects of interest to students of geology.

THE following books have recently been sold at auction in London: 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum,' from Vol. 1 to Vol. 27, 1874-95, with numerous beautifully-colored plates, £32; the *Ibis*, from 1859 to 1903, with numerous colored plates and the general index, 1877-94, £60; 'Colored Figures of the Birds of the British Islands,' 1891-97, second edition, £63; H. E. Dresser, 'History of the Birds of Europe,' published by the author, 1871-96, with numerous colored plates, £61; two by John Gould, 'The Birds of Great Britain,' 1873, £58; 'Birds of Asia,' 1850-83, £75; 'English Botany,' 1790-94, 36 volumes,

£18 15s.; W. C. Hewitson, 'Exotic Butterflies,' 1876, £19.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY will receive more than \$200,000 from the estate of the late Frederick W. Guiteau of Irvington-on-the-Hudson, which is nearly \$50,000 more than was announced at the time of Mr. Guiteau's death last year. The money will be used as a fund for the assistance of needy students, and will be lent them without interest.

By the will of George Sykes, of Rockville, Conn., a fund of \$100,000 is provided for a manual training school.

A NEW science hall, to cost \$100,000 is to be erected at Colgate University. A sum of about \$30,000 has been subscribed for the purpose.

THE French minister of public instruction has recommended the establishment of a chair of physics at the University of Paris, to which M. Curie will be called.

IN the report of the registration of the universities, recently published in SCIENCE, the number of students in the graduate school of the University of Michigan was given as 69. We are informed that it was at that time at least 85, and is now nearly 100.

DR. CHARLES W. DABNEY has accepted the presidency of the University of Cincinnati.

DR. GEORGE STUART FULLERTON, professor of philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania and formerly dean and vice-provost, has been elected professor of philosophy at Columbia University.

AT Teachers College, Columbia University, Dr. Edward L. Thorndike was promoted from an adjunct professorship to a professorship of psychology; Dr. J. H. MacVannell from an instructorship to an adjunct professorship in education, and Dr. Herman Vulté from a lectureship to an adjunct professorship of domestic science.

MR. GILBERT VAN INGEN has been appointed assistant in geology and curator in invertebrate paleontology at Princeton University.

MR. HOWARD D. MINCHIN, of the University of Michigan, has been appointed instructor in physics at Rochester University.