

epidote, clearly of secondary origin, were found. The albite (?) could not be positively identified, but was clearly secondary.

The minerals and their associations just described indicate that the rock has suffered hydrothermal alteration, presumably near the contact of some plutonic intrusive. It therefore remains for the meteorite specialists to decide whether or not a newly fallen meteorite may be similar in mineral characters to hydrothermally altered terrestrial rocks. Professor Very's argument is that absence of pronounced kaolinization and ferruginous staining are good evidence that the stone is not a glacial boulder; but opposed to this argument is the fact of the corroded surface. The stone was discovered near the top of a gentle slope and certainly could not have become so corroded at that point. There is a swampy tract at the base of the slope. Could the stone have been corroded there and later been removed to the point of "discovery"?

Professor Very's argument that the stone is a meteorite is based, in short, partly on absence of kaolinization and ferruginous staining, but chiefly upon the verbal testimony cited in his article; the writer's argument to the contrary rests on the altered character evidenced by mineral relations, and the swamp-corroded surface, which coupled with the point of discovery, are at least suggestive of fraud.

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QUOTATIONS

ANOTHER ROSS CASE

TEN years ago Professor E. A. Ross was dismissed from Leland Stanford University because Mrs. Stanford was offended by the active part he took in the campaign for free silver and by his extreme language in opposition to Japanese immigration. Last week he was publicly rebuked by the regents of the University of Wisconsin for exposing his students to the influence of dangerous agitators. The text of the resolution is as follows:

"Whereas, It has come to the knowledge of the Board of Regents that Professor E. A. Ross, of the department of sociology in our university, has invited to lecture in the university and under its auspices, persons whose record and expressed views are subversive of good morals, therefore be it

"Resolved, By the Board of Regents that we strongly disapprove of such action, and that the president of the university is requested to inform Professor Ross of the censure of the board and their unanimous disapproval of his indiscretions."

The disturbance originated in the visit of Emma Goldman to Madison, where she gave a lecture in a downtown hall in no wise connected with the university. She visited the university and was shown through it, but her request to be allowed to address classes was refused. Later, however, she was invited by a socialist club of students to speak at their meeting in the Y. M. C. A. building. Professor Ross, referring in his classes to the fact that a woman was tearing down the cards announcing the lecture, took occasion to express himself in favor of free speech and mentioned the Goldman lecture downtown that evening, at the same time stating his disapproval of such anarchistic teachings.

This, however, was made the basis of a sensational attack by certain newspapers of Wisconsin upon the university for using the facilities provided at the expense of the taxpayers for the promulgating of anarchistic and immoral doctrines. The Board of Visitors appointed a committee to examine instructors, students, lecture notes and textbooks in the department of political economy and came to the following conclusion:

"This investigation disclosed nothing that would warrant the charge that anarchistic, socialistic, or other dangerous doctrines are being taught in the university. On the contrary, investigation disclosed striking instances of foreigners who have come to the university as students believing in anarchism and violence, who have been led to discard such beliefs through the instruction given at the university.

"The general purpose of the instruction given was stated to be not to prove or disprove any particular theory or doctrine, but to enable the student to know and to understand facts and conditions; to fit him to solve for himself the problems of government and of society, rather than to send him forth with a solution for all the problems that he may encounter.

"The Board of Visitors finds that the instruction given in the university, including that given by Professor Ross, is such as to strengthen, not to weaken, respect for government and the institutions of existing society.

Evidently the Board of Regents takes a more serious view of the case than the Board of Visitors but they agree that Professor Ross has been indiscreet. So does Professor Ross, for in a letter to President Van Hise he frankly acknowledges that he should not have alluded to Miss Goldman's lecture in his classes and promises not to commit that sort of a mistake again. We hope, therefore, that he will not feel that the censure of the regents makes it incumbent upon him to resign, and we hope that the regents will not feel it necessary to impose any further restrictions on freedom of expression by members of the faculty.—*The Independent*.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Researches on Fungi. An account of the production, liberation and dispersion of the spores of Hymenomycetes treated botanically and physically. Also some observations upon the discharge and dispersion of the spores of Ascomycetes and of Pilobolus. By A. H. REGINALD BULLER. London, New York, Bombay and Calcutta. Longmans, Green & Co. 1909.

For several years Dr. Buller has been engaged in studying the biology of certain species of Hymenomycetes with special relation to their response to external natural stimuli, to the mechanism of spore discharge, the velocity of spore fall, the adaptation of the spores for wind dispersal, and the correlation of the structure and development of the fruit

bodies, with their adjustments, for the production and dissemination of spores. A few papers have already been published in the *Annals of Botany* and the *Journal of Economic Biology*, dealing with the biology and adjustments of *Polyporus squamosus* and *Lentinus squamosus* (*L. lepideus*), but the larger body of interesting results are here published for the first time. It constitutes a notable contribution to the biology of the fungi, especially in regard to the question of spore discharge and spore fall in the Hymenomycetes, and the remarkable adjustments of the plants which assure the dissemination of myriads of these minute reproductive bodies.

Under the influence of gravity the geotropic curvature of the stem of certain agarics has been shown by Dr. Buller to exhibit the same phenomenon of geotropic swinging or swaying which occurs in the shoots of seed plants. He first observed this in *Coprinus plicatilis* where there was an overtilting or supracurvature four times before it came to rest in the perpendicular position. *Coprinus plicatiloides* Buller, a very minute species growing on horse dung, is remarkably sensitive, one plant curving through 90° in 17.5 minutes. This species also shows geotropic swinging, the successive supracurvatures of the individuals mentioned being 28°, 8°, 1°, 0°.

It has long been known that gravity influences the direction of growth of the stem of many agarics, the stems being negatively geotropic, and the horizontal development of the pileus of many woody or corky species of the Polyporaceæ, the fruit bodies of these plants being diageotropic. These adjustments under the influence of gravity have been recognized as of the greatest importance in permitting the fall of the spores from between the closely approximated gills of most agarics and from the long narrow tubes of most polypores. Dr. Buller has now placed the interpretation of some of these phenomena on a sound experimental basis and has shown also the variations and limitations of the influence of gravity in relation to the adjustment of position of the different parts of the fruit body in