

*Postponement of Full Term.*—A meeting of the heads of the Colleges and Halls was held under the authority of the Vice-Chancellor at the residence of the Regius Professor of Medicine, Sir Henry Acland. A report having been presented by the medical officer of health as to the great prevalence of influenza in Oxford, and the difficulty of procuring nursing and medical attendance for the patients, it was unanimously resolved to recommend the Colleges and Halls, and the delegates of the non-collegiate students, to postpone the attendance of the undergraduates to the end of the first week in February, being a fortnight later than the time originally fixed.

CAMBRIDGE.—The *University Reporter* of January 19 contains an official notification by Prof. Liveing, F.R.S., Chairman of the Council of Cavendish College, that the College ceased on January 15 to be a recognized Public Hostel of the University.

Mr. Buchanan, University Lecturer in Geography, announces for the present term a course of lectures on the development of land surfaces under climatic and other agencies.

The Special Board for Physics and Chemistry propose to establish two new special examinations for the ordinary B.A. degree, one in chemistry, including certain papers in heat, electricity, and magnetism, and another in physics, including papers in dynamics, elementary chemistry, and more advanced electricity and magnetism. The examinations will include practical work in some of these subjects.

Mr. W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., has been elected a member of this Board, and Mr. S. F. Harmer a member of the Board for Biology and Geology.

#### SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

In the *Journal of Botany* for December 1891, Mr. W. West describes a collection of Freshwater Algæ from Maine, including several new species and varieties; and we have also Mr. W. Carruthers's Report of the Department of Botany in the British Museum for 1890, recording important additions to the herbarium and collections, by purchase, exchange, and gift; among the more interesting being the late Mr. J. Ralfs's type-specimens for his "British Desmidiæ."—Dr. D. H. Scott gives a detailed account of the life and writings of the late Prof. Carl v. Nägeli.

In the *Botanical Gazette* for November 1891, Mr. E. J. Hill describes the remarkable propulsive power possessed by the "sling-fruit" of *Cryptotania canadensis*, belonging to the Umbelliferae, by which the seeds are thrown out to a distance of at least 5 feet; and Prof. Byron D. Halsted, a bacterial disease which is exceedingly destructive to the melon crops and other Cucurbitaceæ in America.—The most important article in the number for December is by Prof. Douglas H. Campbell, on the relationships of the Archegoniata, under which term he includes the Gymnosperms, as well as the Muscinæ and Vascular Cryptogams. As in previous essays, Prof. Campbell traces the phylogeny of all the higher forms of vegetable life to the Hepaticæ; both Gymnosperms and Angiosperms having probably been derived through the Ophioglossaceæ, Marattiaceæ, and Isoëtæ.—Prof. C. V. Riley describes the new insect-pest which is committing great ravages on dried plants in herbaria—the larva of *Carphoxera ptelearia*, belonging to the Geometridæ.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### LONDON.

**Zoological Society**, January 5.—Prof. A. Newton, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the chair.—The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the months of November and December 1891. Amongst these attention was called to four Spotted-billed Pelicans (*Pelecanus manillensis*), received from Calcutta, and to a second specimen of the Formosan Fruit-Bat—a species originally described from an example received alive by the Society in 1873.—Dr. E. C. Stirling exhibited some specimens of the new Australian Marsupial (*Notoryctes typhlops*), and gave a short account of the habits of this remarkable animal, as observed in a specimen recently kept in captivity by one of his correspondents.—An extract was read from a letter received from Dr. F. A. Jentink, calling attention to the recent acquisition by one of his correspondents in Java of additional specimens of the

rare Bush-Rat (*Pithechir melanurus*).—Mr. Ernst Hartert exhibited a series of eggs of the Common and other Cuckoos, mostly collected by himself and trustworthy friends, and made remarks on the question of the similarity of the eggs of the Cuckoos to those of the owners of the nest in which they are deposited.—A communication was read from Dr. J. Anderson, F.R.S., containing notes on a small collection of Mammals, Reptiles, and Batrachians made during a recent visit to Algeria and Tunisia.—Mr. F. E. Beddard read a paper upon the Earth-worms collected by Dr. Anderson during the same expedition. Amongst them were examples of a new species of the genus *Microscolex*. A second new species of the same genus, based on examples collected by Mr. E. B. Poulton, F.R.S., in Madeira, and proposed to be called *M. poultoni*, was also described.—A communication was read from Mr. R. I. Pocock on some Myriopoda and Arachnida collected by Dr. Anderson during the same expedition.—Mr. M. F. Woodward read a paper on the milk dentition of *Procapra (Hyrax) capensis*. The author showed that Lataste's canine has a counterpart in the lower or mandibular series, and he described for the first time two small vestigial upper incisors. He concluded that the teeth named belong collectively to the first or milk set, and that the formulation of the incisors of this genus as  $\frac{2}{1}$  is probably due to the occasional persistence of the second upper milk-incisor.—Mr. Oldfield Thomas gave an account of the species of the Hyracoidea, of which order he had lately examined a large series of specimens. The author recognized fourteen species of this group of Mammals, all of which he proposed to refer to one genus (*Procapra*). Besides these, four geographical sub-species were recognized. A new species was described as *P. latastei*, from Senegal.

**Geological Society**, January 6.—Mr. W. H. Hudleston, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the chair.—The following communications were read:—On a new form of *Agelacrinites (Leptodiscus Milleri, n. sp.)* from the Lower Carboniferous Limestone of Cumberland, by G. Sharman and E. T. Newton.—The geology of Barbados; Part II. The oceanic deposits, by A. J. Jukes-Browne and Prof. J. B. Harrison.—*Archæopneustes abruptus*, a new genus and species of Echinoid from the oceanic series in Barbados, by J. W. Gregory. This genus belongs to a group of Echinoidea which has given some trouble to systematists, owing to the union of the characters of the orders Cassiduloidea and Spatangoidea; the other genera belonging to the group are *Asterostoma*, *Pseudasterostoma*, and *Palæopneustes*. The evidence of the new Echinoid throws light upon the affinities of these genera. The main points suggested by a study of the new species are: (1) the abandonment of the name *Pseudasterostoma* as a synonym of *Palæopneustes*; and (2) the inclusion of the true *Asterostoma*, *Palæopneustes*, and *Archæopneustes* in the Adete Spatangoidea, whereby the Plesiospatangidæ are left as a more homogeneous family, though bereft of the chief interest assigned to it. A tabular summary of the nomenclature of the group is given. The best-known fossil species of *Asterostoma* and *Palæopneustes* occur in Cuba, in deposits referred to the Cretaceous owing to the resemblance of these Echinoids to the common Chalk *Echinocorys scutatus*. The new genus includes a species from the same deposit, which is probably of the same age as the Bissex Hill rock from which the new species was obtained; this is at the top of the oceanic series, and belongs to the close of the great subsidence. After the reading of this paper, there was a discussion in which the Chairman, Dr. Blanford, Prof. Sollas, Prof. Harrison, Mr. J. W. Gregory, and Mr. W. Hill took part.

##### DUBLIN.

**Royal Society**, December 16, 1891.—Prof. A. C. Haddon, President of the Scientific Section, in the chair.—Mr. E. W. L. Holt read a paper on the eggs and larval and post-larval stages of Teleosteans, obtained during the Society's survey of fishing grounds on the west coast of Ireland. Thirty-three species, chiefly food-fish, are dealt with. The eggs of *Gadus esmarkii*, *G. pollachius*, and *Rhombus megastoma*, are described for the first time; those of *Hippoglossa platessoides* (the long rough dab), *Scomber scomber* (the mackerel), and *Caranx trachurus* (the scad), are also described. The development of the long rough dab, turbot, brill, and several other species of flat-fish, is traced upwards, to the assumption of the adult characters, with more or less continuity. The paper concludes with a series of tables containing an artificial classification of the pelagic eggs of British marine Teleosteans for purposes of easy identification.