The penetrative power of such a flame, and hence its beneficial uses in the foggy weather of our latitude, combined with its photometric massiveness, would compare, it would seem, very favorably with the incandescent point of light which now at night marks the watch-tower of Liberty on Bedloe’s Island, and in fogs dimly shines through the mist in an apologetic and feeble way quite disappointing.

L. P. GRATACAP.
New York, Dec. 15.

The relations of our colleges and preparatory schools.

In Science for Nov. 26 you comment editorially on the teachers’ convention at Philadelphia, and close with the sentence, “It would be especially notable should it prove to be the first step in bringing our colleges and preparatory schools into frequent and close conference in some official manner.”

Allow me to call your attention to the fact that in Michigan there now exists, and has existed since the year 1870, a relation between the university and the public high schools of the state, under which the graduates of schools, whose courses of study have been approved by a committee sent for that purpose, the approval of the university faculty, are admitted to the university on the presentation of their high-school diplomas. The inspection of the schools is repeated at intervals, whenever it seems desirable to do so.

The privilege of admission on diplomas, which was at first restricted to the public high schools of Michigan, has been gradually extended, and at the present time the University of Michigan holds this close official relation with thirty schools, public and private, in Michigan, and also with schools in New York, Illinois, Minnesota, and California.

WM. H. PETTEE.

[We were, of course, aware that in Michigan there is a system of co-ordination of university and high schools and academies, and we are now gratified to learn that this co-ordination embraces schools outside of the state of Michigan. It is to be regretted that this system is not adopted generally by our universities and colleges, and we renew our expression of hope that the late Philadelphia conference may emphasize the value of the Michigan system, and lead to its general adoption.—Ed.]

The Americanists.

There is a ludicrous slip of the pen in the account given in the last number of Science, of the Proceedings of the sixth congress of Americanists, held at Turin in September last. Supreme wisdom does not always seem to preside over the councils of this learned body; but it is hardly fair to Professor Grossi to represent him as having read a paper on the ‘coins’ of the old and new worlds before a society devoted to the study of prehistoric questions. What he had to say was about momies, and not mammatus, in the two continents, and was a sensible and learned discussion of the question. The same gentleman also presented a paper upon pyramids in the old and new worlds, and one upon the folk-lore of the primitive tribes of America.

HENRY W. HAYNES.

A new bat from Puget Sound.

Among the specimens collected in 1880 by Prof. D. S. Jordan, in the vicinity of Puget Sound, for the national museum, is a small bat, which, upon examination, proves to be different from any hitherto described. It resembles the common blunt-nosed bat, V. lucifugus, but differs from it in several important characters. Most noticeable of these is the great length of the tibia; and I have therefore thought it appropriate to name the species Vespertilio longi-ricus. It is the third species added to the fauna of the United States during the year. I subjoin a brief diagnosis.

Vespertilio longi-ricus: fur uniform, uniform color above; the same below, but with the upper fourth dull Naples yellow; intermembranous membrane clothed above and below to a line joining the centre of the tibiae; ears shorter than the head; inner margin of the croup convex, that of the tragus concave; calcaneum reaching only to middle of hind margin of intermembranous membrane; teeth as in V. lucifugus, but first premolar not imbricate with canine; brain-case very high; length of head and body 47.5 mm., head 16; height of ear, 12.5, tragus 6.5, fore-arm 39, thumb 6, tibia 20, foot 7.5.

F. W. TARZ.

Preliminary description of a new pocket gopher from California.

Mr. F. Stephens, one of my Californian mammal-collectors, has sent me several specimens of a small pocket gopher, of the genus Thomomys (Thomomys talpoides perpallidus, sub-sp. nov.), which I do not find described. The sub-specific name ‘perpallidus’ refers to the very pale color of the animal. It may be distinguished at a glance from all its congeners, except T. clusius of Coues, by its color, which is very pale brownish-yellow above, and white underneath on the sides and legs. It differs from T. clusius in the great length of its tail, which is half as long as the head and body, and in other characters which will be pointed out in a later paper on the animal. All the specimens were captured on the arid Colorado desert, in southern California, in March and April, 1886.

C. HART MERRIAM.

Canada educational monthly. — Annual convention of Queen's university. — *A plea for your reading-circles.* — The relation of higher education to religion, President William DeWitt Hyde. — Lord Derby on juvenile education — Children past and present. — The training of the voice of the child. — Notes, correspondence, etc.

Pedagogisches archiv. — Die ersten sätze der stereotomie, Dr. C. Lackemann. — Die verdeutschungsbestrebungen der gegenwart, Regierungs-rath Sarrazin. — Unterrichts minister Trefort über die schulreform. — Sprachzaal, anzeigen, nachrichten, u. w. Educational times, December. — Folk tales. — Meeting of the Council of the college of preceptors. — University and college intelligence. — Educational notes and summary. — The retirement of Mr. Matthew Arnold. — Education in India. — Dr. Percival's election to the mastership of Rugby. — Bishop of London at the City of London college. — Reviews, notices, etc.


Educational articles in miscellaneous periodicals.


[Review of *La nouvelle revue*.


"L'étude de M. Breymann se divise en deux parties: dans la première, il recherche le but que poursuit l'enseignement des langues dans les universités allemandes; dans la seconde, il examine les moyens d'arriver à ce but."


Dean Plumptre's *Dante.* Bishop of Ripon. *Contemporary review,* December.


[Review of Abbé Tongard's book of the same title.]


[An extract from the forthcoming work by these authors on animal magnetism.]


Loi sur l'organisation de l'enseignement primaire. *Journal des économistes,* November.

[The full official text of the new French law regulating primary instruction.]

Master of Trinity, the late. Unsigned. *Temple Bar magazine,* December.

Miller manual labor school of Albemarle, Va., the. *Scientific American,* Dec. 11.


[Review of *La nouvelle revue*.


Object of a university, the. Elisha Mulford. *Atlantic monthly,* December.


[Review of *La nouvelle revue*.

"L'école, l'élève, la famille, le pedagogue, le professeur, l'enseignement (auteurs,grammaire, littérature), les devoirs, les études accessoires, M. Juillien examine successivement chacun de ces points avec une netteté jointe à une abondance de détails dont on ne sait trop se feliciter."

Science and morals. Prof. T. H. Huxley. *Fortnightly review,* December.

Techner's und Swee'ts vorschläge zur reform des
Calendar of Societies.

Chemical society, Washington.

Dec. 7. — H. C. Yarrow, Notes on treatment of aqua; H. Ten Kate, Travels in Guiana and Venezuela; Cyrus Thomas, Mound exploration work of the bureau of ethnology.

Biological society, Washington.
Dec. 11. — Theobald Smith, Parasitic bacteria and their relation to saprophytes; F. A. Lucas, On the osteology of the spotted Tanimou (Notnura maculosa); C. D. Walcott, Tracks found on strata of upper Cambrian (Potsdam) age; Frank Baker, The foramen of Magendie; C. Hart Merriam, Contributions to North American mammalogy of a new sub-species of pocket gopher.

Philosophical society, Washington.

Engineers' club, Philadelphia.
Dec. 4. — Carl Hering, Analogies between electrical and mechanical units and phenomena; A. H. Howland, On the general subject of water-pipes; Rudolph Hering, Notes upon the present investigation of the drainage and water-supply of Chicago.

Academy of natural sciences, Philadelphia.
Nov. 30. — Miss Helen C. De S. Abbott, Haematoxylon; Professor Ryder, The transmission of morphological changes; G. A. Koenig, Boiler incrustation; On schorlomite as a variety of melanite.

Torrrey botanical club, New York.

Institute of social science, New York.

Jan. 13. — A paper is expected on The economic heresies of Mr. Henry George.

Natural science association, Staten Island.
Dec. 11. — Mr. Henshaw, Azolla Caroliniana, Wild; W. T. Davis, Fasciated stems and branches from Rhus glabra and Allanthus glandulosus; Mr. Hollick, Glaciation on the island.

Connecticut academy of arts and sciences.
Dec. 15. — J. H. Emerton, New England spiders of the family Cenizinidae; J. T. Fewkes, Is the vast mass of oceanic water, between the surface and bottom, barren of life, or occupied by a peculiar fauna?

Society of arts, Boston.
Dec. 9. — Elihu Thomson, New art of electric wiring.

Society of natural history, Boston.

Brookville society of natural history, Brookville, Ind.

Publications received at Editor's Office, Dec. 6-18.

Agricultural science, proceedings of the society for the promotion of, 1886. Columbus, O., Gazette pr. hiver, 1886. 8°. p. 88.


Linnean society of New South Wales, catalogue of the library of the. Sydney, Cunningham & Co., 1886. 74 p. 12°.


Sanitary convention held at Ypsilanti, June 30 and July 11, 1885, proceedings of the. Lansing, State, 1886. 177 p., illus. 8°.


