

In round numbers, fifteen thousand specimens have been added, many of them being noted and rare. Together with the private herbarium of the Professor and the old collection belonging to the University, they make an entire number of twenty thousand specimens at the command of the student. The recent additions are as follows:

FLOWERING PLANTS		
Vasey's collection	2000	
Curtiss' Florida Plants	650	
Curtiss' Florida Woods	150	
Nordlinger's Woods of the World	800	
Parry's Western Plants	1000	4600
MOSSES		
Austin's Mosses of N. A.	352	
Austin's Supp. to same	100	452
LIVERWORTS		
Austin's Liverworts of N. A.	150	
G&R Liverworts of Europe	660	810
LICHENS		
Massalongo's Lichens of Italy	360	
S&F Lichens of Scandinavia	240	600
FUNGI		
Thueman's Herb. Econ. Fungi	700	
Thueman's Myc. Universalis	2300	
Linhart's Hungarian Fungi	400	
Austin's Miscellaneous Fungi	150	3550
ALGAE (Seaweeds)		
Algae of Germany	339	
Areschoug's Algae of Scandinavia	400	
Rebenhorst's Algae of the World	2600	
Le Jolies' Algae of Cherbourg	280	
W&N Fresh-water Algae	700	
Averills Collection of Algae	428	4747
		14759

The work room is probably the most interesting place in the whole building. Shiny brass microscopes peer out of the cases where they stand in rows awaiting the pleasure of the student, and mysterious cases, drawers and bottles are there in profusion, ready to receive the homage of the scientific devotee. There are six Bausch&Lomb and fifteen Beck microscopes for the exclusive use of classes. They are plain instruments, but are very well made and fitted with attachments that will enable as fine work to be done, up to a certain point, as with the most expensive and complicated apparatus. The cost of these twenty-one microscopes was six hundred dollars. There are over two dozen Beck dissecting microscopes for the use of the students, thirty-six Coddington lenses, section cutter, turn-table, staining fluids, reagents, and in fact everything needed for the most advanced work in this department. The king of all apparatus yet received by the University, however, is the large Binocular microscope, manufactured to order by the famous maker, Beck, of London. Its cost was in the neighborhood of \$1500. It is perhaps the best instrument in the west with the exception of a similar one at Michigan University. It is simply complete. Every refinement that can be given an instrument can be seen in this one, and the most advanced work requires nothing better. A small fortune is represented in the attachments alone. An attempt to describe the power of the instrument or the many uses to which it can be put would end in failure, and we must be content with a single expression of wonder at its completeness. To be appreciated it must be seen. A visit to the rooms of Professor Bes

sey is enough to send home the conviction that the University is wedded to Science at least.

The general tone of the reports from the Blair Educational Bill indicate that it will fail in the House of Representatives. A large majority of the House committee on education are said to be opposed to it. The argument against it seems to be that it places a premium on ignorance and, moreover, it is urged that the general government has no constitutional right to give aid to education, a queer statement in view of the fact of government aid already given. The only tenable argument of this kind must go back to first principles and deny the right of the state to educate all. It is a perplexing question, the amount appropriated is large and it may be well to await the maturing of public opinion. A delay of a year or two will be wise if by such delay a conclusion more just can be reached.

THE HESPERIAN seems to have periodical spells of feeling bad about the order in the library. Lest it grow lean from continuous worrying we take time to explain matters. The order is about the same as it always has been and always will be until the library is no longer a rendezvous for students of all ages, sizes, sexes, conditions, etc. If we had some one posted at the entrance door with a bowie knife and six-shooter to keep out all but those so rabid for knowledge as to look neither to the right nor the left, we might keep order. But as it is, the whole herd rushes in upon us. And as they are a human herd they are wont to behave accordingly. Social instincts come to the surface. Nature's laws will work in spite of us. Of course you will say that the noisy ones should be put out, but practically, it is very hard to tell where to draw the line. Do away with the reading room and admit only those who actually need to refer to books in the library, then you will have an orderly room. But practically you cannot have perfect quiet in a room full of all kinds of students.

The plea for English in our schools, given by Prof. W. H. Skinner, of David City, before the State Teachers' Association was little short of eloquent and those who heard it can scarcely fail to have a stronger enthusiasm and respect for their own tongue than they will commonly get by ordinary classic study. The condemnation of technical grammar and the way it has usurped the place of language itself was especially suggestive to those who know from their own study something of the force and beauty of the language of Shakespeare's age, when men learned to use language by a study of the masters, not by using a grammar. But two thoughts were still more prominent; that we should make all language study tend to one great principal end,—the ability to use language in the expression of our thoughts, and that when we learn to read it does not mean that we are to learn to recite, but that we learn to extract from the printed page the thoughts of the writer. If this be the ideal, how futile has much of the teaching of reading been that we have undergone. It especially becomes university students to think of these things for on their ability to read in the truest sense of the word their ability and success as scholars depends.

Owing to various and indescribable repairs to the steam heating apparatus the steam has been shut off and our office left in semi-polar frigidity for several days during the last week and, as a consequence, the promise as to the time of issue, made in another column, is not fulfilled. The delay gives us an opportunity, however, to lay before our readers some thoughts from the speakers who have addressed the State Teachers' Association. The address of F. A. Fitzpatrick on