

Fling and Caldwell. A detailed account of the changes made in the faculty will be found on another page.

The return of Professor Edgren to the University is the most encouraging event of this year. The professor's former work in the institution is beyond praise, and during his rectorship in Sweden he has done work equally as excellent. He is certainly one of the best linguists in America and his work in philology ranks with the widest research of the times. The professor himself is needed as much as his work. There is something infectious about the greatness of a great man; there is an influence in the knowledge he never tells, in the wisdom he never teaches. It is the grand enthusiasm that higher culture leaves in a man that makes even dull minds quicken by mere contact.

The decision of the regents to bring the law college into the University hall must be regarded in the light of an experiment. The interests of the students in the University proper, and of those in the law school will now be brought more closely together, we hope for the mutual good of both parties; though we do fear that if the word lawyer be synonymous for politician, the amount of wire pulling that will result from a union of the two elements will be enormous.

There is a movement on-foot to organize a Glee Club. This ought to meet the encouragement of all singers in the University. Cause the roofs to quake with melody.

#### AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

The discovery by Prof. G. B. Frankforter, of a new and simple way of producing the opium alkaloid, known as narceine, will be of great importance to the chemical world. Narceine is a very rare opium alkaloid. It has been known for a number of years, but its rarity has prevented its extensive use.

As it is the strongest of narcotics, a method that would produce it in a simple manner, and at the same time cheaply, would prove a boon to the possessor of the secret of its manufacture. Mr. Frankforter, in the course of his investigations, which were quite extensive, discovered what had always been thought impossible by all chemists viz; the existence of alkali salts, C 23, H 26, N O 8, M. (M equalizing any alkali metal.) By treating for instance, a sodium salt of narceine with carbon dioxide; the sodium split off as sodium carbonate and liberated chemically pure narceine. Pure narceine had never before been obtained. So by means of one discovery (the alkali salt) another (pure narceine) was obtained.

But the real importance of the discovery was brought out by further investigation. An artificial way was found for manufacturing the narceine from narcotine, by taking narcotine together with methyl iodide and substituting iodine for the hydroxyl group. The substance thus formed proved to be pure narceine. The value of the discovery is easily seen. Opium contains only 2-10 of one per cent of narceine, valued at \$600 per kilo, and 10 per cent of narcotine, valued at \$7 per kilo, from which narceine may be made very cheaply by this new method. The medical value of narceine lies in the fact that substances possessing the qualities of morphine may be made from it. It may also be turned to innumerable other uses. The very fact that narceine will form an alkali salt, proves that it will form ethers. This has been proven by actual experiment.

Mr. Frankforter took out a patent in Europe as soon as he made his discovery, and on September 19 received one for the United States. He has discovered thirty-five new compounds in the course of his studies, and has opened up a limitless field for investigation by his new experiments. Recently he has found out that anti-sposmine, a medicine which is attracting much attention on the continent, is nothing more than an alkali salt discovered by him, long before the appearance of the medicine.