

The University of Pennsylvania has two thousand eight hundred and twenty-four regular students. Of this number, theology claims one hundred and sixty-eight; law, eleven hundred and fifty-eight; medicine, three hundred and forty-five.

According to the *Dartmouth's* correspondent at Wellesly, the examinations are not given out until the morning of the day on which they are to come off, in order, no doubt, to prevent cramming.

It is pleasing to notice the advancement being made in college journalism. Certainly the college press is destined to wield its influence; and we deem its rise one of the most important fruits of progressive ideas in education. Though if too much freedom is given this branch of the press, its abuse by youthful and thoughtless writers is to be feared, and should be guarded against.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

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Plants intended for the herbarium are reported to retain their natural colors if dipped in a warm mixture composed of one part hydrochloric acid and six hundred parts of alcohol.

The seeds of a leguminous plant growing in Mexico have been remarked as possessing a capacity for hopping about in an unparalleled manner. Mr. Henry Edwards, entomologist, has revealed the secret of their motion. The larva of a moth of the *Tortricida* makes its home in these seeds, and jerks them about with its movements.

A Frenchman has analyzed the dust and debris of the streets of Paris and Florence, and has found that 35 per cent of that collected from the roadway is iron given off by horses' shoes, and that from 30 to 40 per cent, of that taken from the sidewalks is glue. He proposes to utilize both the iron and the glue.

A new coating for the bottom of iron ships consists of brown paper attached by

a suitable cement. It is the invention of an English sea captain, and the substance he proposes to use is a preparation of *papier mache*. It is stated that weeds and barnacles will not adhere to paper, and that the special cement by which the paper is in this case secured, may be applied cold, hardens under water, is unaffected by comparatively high temperature, and possesses great tenacity. Experiments made with a view to test this method, show that a plate thus protected on one side has been immersed for six months, with the result that the protected side was found clean, while the unprotected metal was covered with rust and shell-fish.

A writer in the *Fortnightly Review* says that the cat is more sensitive to rarified air than any other animal organism. Attempts to acclimatize it at Potosi, Bolivia, 13,000 feet above the sea, have failed. It has remarkable tetanic fits, beginning like St. Vitus' dance, and after that spasms, in which it leaps violently up the side of a house and flies into convulsions. Cats born 7,300 feet above the sea are deaf.

When the usefulness of compressed paper for railway wheels was demonstrated two or three years ago, people asked: "What next?" The question can now be answered. The latest use of paper appears to be for chimney pots. They are made in Breslau, and are light and durable. Before the paper pulp is molded and compressed into the required shape, it is treated with chemicals which render it non-inflammable.

The latest improvement in the telephone is a bell signal. This was very much needed to complete the instrument, since, without such aid, it has been exceedingly difficult for a person using the telephone to call the attention of a hearer at the other end of a line. The bell-call operates without the need of a battery; it is effected by simply turning a wheel, which causes magnetic coils to revolve, giving a current sufficient to move the hammer of a bell at the other end of the wire.