

SEDGWICK AT AMHERST

At a Convocation on Wednesday Professor Sedgwick addressed the student body of Amherst Agricultural College. The subject of his address was "Charles Darwin, his life and work." His coming trip west has as yet not been definitely planned. He will start, however, some time in the middle of April, and is not going all the way to the Pacific coast probably only as far as the Missouri valley states.

THIRD PHYSICS LECTURE

A large number of students, professors and others interested gathered in Huntington Hall yesterday afternoon to listen to Prof. Percival Lowell's third lecture on Cosmic Physics, entitled "The Formation of Planets." Prof. Lowell spoke of the ease with which systems of the universe may be manufactured but the very great difficulty in arriving at a perfectly correct and satisfactory cosmogony. Congruities must give us the clue to the mode of formation of the solar system. It was the fact that the orbits of the planets lie very nearly in the same plane and that the planets, as far as he knew, revolved and rotated in the same sense which lead Laplace to his famous nebular hypothesis.

The majority of the satellites keep the same face always turned toward the planet around which they revolve and moreover they show extraordinary regularity in their distribution, the masses of the satellites nearest the central planet being less than those at a medium distance and the masses of these in turn greater than those farther away from the planet.

Certain facts as the abnormal direction of rotation of Uranus and Neptune and the excessive low moment of momentum of the present system, have forced us to abandon Laplace's hypothesis.

"All facts," said Prof. Lowell, "point to the formation of the solar system through an initial segregation of small bodies and its subsequent development through tidal action." The knots in the original nebula were the nuclei of the planets and around them the scattered masses of the nebula were segregated. In time tides due to the sun brought the planes of the orbits of the planets into coincidence with each other, as we see them today and caused the innermost members of the system, Mercury and Venus, to rotate in the same time as they revolve, that is, to keep the same face always toward the sun.

The same action occurred in the case of the satellite system. This theory, however, is incapable of explaining the retrograde motions of the ninth satellite of Saturn and the eighth of Jupiter.

Prof. Lowell illustrated his various points with lantern slides. In closing he said that the first three lectures had dealt with the rise of the solar system; the last three would have to do with the appearance of organic life and the decline of the system.

TRACK WORK BEGINS

(Continued from page 1.) candidates the benefit of their longer experience. Coach Kanaly believes that at least 40 men from the student body should try for these events, which are the weakest spot in the Institute team. Only six men appeared yesterday. They were besides those mentioned above P. H. Mayers 1910, and G. W. Richards 1912.

A run will be held at Hyde Park tomorrow rain or shine. Capt. Eldred 1911 will have charge of the men. Kanaly will also run but for the only time this spring as his presence is needed at the Field.

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