

Preventing Collisions with Icebergs

ALTHOUGH it is, I believe, ascertained that fogs are often highly athermanous, I would, at the same time, like to ask whether a thermal radiation method might not serve to show the presence of a large mass of ice in the neighbourhood of a ship. I venture to make the suggestion, as I know of no experiments on the degree of athermancy possessed by fogs, as tested by such an instrument as the bolometer of Prof. Langley. The use of this instrument, or even of the thermopile, in conjunction with a large reflector and an alarm circuit closed by galvanometer deflection, might be worth trial by any one possessing the opportunity.

J. JOLY

Engineering School, Trinity College, Dublin, August

Monkeys and Water

Is it a usual thing for monkeys, either in captivity or in their native condition, to take freely to the water? Some relations of mine have a small monkey that was brought to them from Java, and which is a great pet. One day it was thought that he should be bathed, and he was put on the edge of the bath. In a little while he hung down from the edge by a foot and hand, and drank the water, and then, plunging in, he swam backwards and forwards under the water, with his eyes open, with great enjoyment.

After the first time he was frequently bathed, and a day or two ago I saw him go through the performance. It was very pretty to see how he enjoyed it, swimming under the water and diving away from a hand put down to take him; then going head over heels at the bottom and lying on his back to bite playfully at a finger; then he would run about on all-fours with his head held out of the water, and then go under again: and after it all, when he was taken out and dried with a towel, he lay wrapped up in a shawl, sleeping comfortable and happy. I should like to know whether he is an exception to the rule in his love of the water.

JERRY BARRETT

15, Avenue Road, Regent's Park, August 6

A Correction

I HAVE very stupidly made it appear in my note on pitcher plants, printed in last week's NATURE (p. 341), that Dr. McBride was President of the Linnean Society in 1815. I ought to have written, "In 1815 the then President of the Linnean Society read a communication from Dr. James McBride," &c. I suppose Sir James Edward Smith was at that time President of the Linnean Society, and that Dr. McBride never was.

W. WATSON

August 15

A MODEL UNIVERSITY

THE following information for applicants for admission to the Johns Hopkins University, printed in the University Circulars in response to letters, we are sure will be read with interest and profit:—

How was the University Founded?—The Johns Hopkins University was instituted by the munificence of a citizen of Baltimore, Johns Hopkins, who bequeathed the most of his large estate for the establishment of a University and a Hospital. The foundation of the University is a capital, in land and stocks, estimated in value at more than 3,000,000 dollars; the capital of the Hospital is not less in amount. The University was incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland, August 24, 1867, and it was opened for instruction in September, 1876. The Philosophical Faculty (of Letters and Science) is now organised. A medical department will soon be instituted.

In what is Instruction Given?—Systematic instruction is offered in English, Anglo-Saxon, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, Hebrew, Arabic, and in other languages and literatures; in pure and applied mathematics; in chemistry (inorganic and organic) with laboratory work; in physics (including mechanics, light, heat, sound, electricity, magnetism, &c.), with laboratory work; in biology (including physiology

and morphology) with laboratory work; in mineralogy and geology; in ancient and modern history; in physical geography; in political economy and in the elements of international law; in logic, ethics, psychology, pedagogics, &c. Occasional courses of lectures are also given upon special themes in literature, science, history, archæology, art, &c.

To whom is this Instruction offered?—To all young men who are prepared to profit by it and who will conform to the simple regulations which are established by the authorities. Graduate, Undergraduate, and Special Students are received.

Those who have not already received an academic degree, should aim to secure one by pursuing a liberal and prolonged course of study, at the close of which the degree of Bachelor of Arts will be conferred. Those who may be prevented from seeking this degree will nevertheless be welcomed to the University, provided that they are in earnest and are mature enough in years, attainments, and character to profit by the advantages which are here afforded. Others who have already taken their first degree are encouraged to go forward in advanced lines of work, and for them unusual facilities are provided. Young men who are to pursue the study of law, medicine, or theology, or who have entered upon professional lives, and others who expect to become teachers, if they desire to become proficient in literature and science, have easy access to the class-rooms and laboratories. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy may be obtained, after three years of advanced study, by those who have met the required conditions.

How is this Instruction given?—By all the methods which experience has shown to be useful—varying according to the preferences of the teachers, the subjects taught, and the number of scholars. There are recitations, lectures, conferences, prolonged courses in laboratories, exercises in special libraries, personal counsel, study of nature out of doors. The usual four-year classes are not maintained, but in all the principal subjects taught there are beginners, intermediate students, and advanced workers; so that every scholar is assigned to that position in each section of the University which will yield him the greatest advantages. He may be far advanced in one subject and only a beginner in another. This result is only secured by the engagement of a large staff of teachers.

What are the Laboratory and Library Facilities?—The scientific laboratories are three in number. They are open throughout the day and are fully equipped. For chemistry there is a special building arranged for about ninety workers, and well adapted to all kinds of chemical and mineralogical work. A large building has been recently constructed for a biological laboratory, with complete arrangements for physiological and morphological work. The physical department is furnished with apparatus selected both for demonstration and investigation, and especially valuable for researches in electricity, magnetism, light, and heat. The construction of a new building for a physical laboratory is now under way.

The library includes over 26,000 bound volumes, and 650 serials are regularly received. It is open thirteen hours daily. The library of the Peabody Institute, with 80,000 volumes, and the other Baltimore libraries, are of easy access. Washington is so near that the Library of Congress, the National Museum, and the other libraries and museums of the capital may be readily visited.

What are the Necessary Expenses of a Student?—The charge for tuition in all departments (including the use of the library, and without any extra charges except for materials consumed in the laboratories), is 100 dollars per annum, payable one-half October 1, and the other half February 1.

Young men living in any part of Baltimore, or in the immediate vicinity, can lodge at home, as the first lessons