ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND.

This fund, which has been established by Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, of Stamford, Conn., "for the advancement and prosecution of scientific research in its broadest sense," now amounts to \$25,000. As the income is already available, the Trustees desire to receive applications for appropriations in aid of scientific work. This endowment is not for the benefit of any one department of science, but it is the intention of the Trustees to give the preference to those investigations, *not already otherwise provided for*, which have for their object the advancement of human knowledge, or the benefit of mankind in general, rather than to researches directed to the solution of questions of merely local importance.

Applications for assistance from this fund should be accompanied by a full statement of the nature of the investigation, of the conditions under which it is to be prosecuted, and of the manner in which the appropriation asked for is to be expended. The applications should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Dr. C. S. Minot, 25 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

(Signed)

H. P. BOWDITCH, *President*.

WM. MINOT, JR., *Treasurer*.

FRANCIS A. WALKER.

EDW. C. PICKERING.

CHARLES SEDGWICK MINOT, *Secretary*.

ON THE PRESENCE OF OXYGEN IN SILVER.—Van de Plaats (*Rec. de Trav. Chim.*, 5, 212) has critically reviewed the work of Dumas, from which that chemist was led to conclude that silver always retains oxygen after fusion in presence of that element. The silver was heated to ebullition in an unglazed crucible, by the application of an oxy-hydrogen blow-pipe flame to its surface. The almost boiling metal was then poured into cold water in a tall, cylindrical vessel, at the bottom of which was placed a silver crucible. About ten grammes of this granulated silver was then heated to the softening point of Bohemian glass, successively in currents of air, hydrogen and carbon-monoxide, and subsequently in a vacuum, the gases in each case being carefully purified. The experiments showed that silver purified according to the method of Stas does not sensibly decrease in weight when heated in a vacuum to 600° C. for about three hours, and the weight of the silver did not vary by heating in the gases named.

W. H. G.