

tions,' by Louis Kahlenberg—Faraday's law was found to hold approximately in such solutions; 'Vapor-pressure Relations in Mixtures of Two Liquids, II,' by A. E. Taylor; 'On the Determination of Transition Temperatures,' by H. M. Dawson and P. Williams; 'The Driving Tendency of Physico-Chemical Reaction, and its Temperature Coefficient,' by T. W. Richards.

June. 'The Allotropic Forms of Selenium,' by A. P. Saunders—an exhaustive contribution to an illy investigated subject. The author finds that selenium exists in three distinct forms:

1. Liquid (including vitreous, amorphous, and soluble selenium).
2. Crystalline red (including perhaps two closely allied forms).
3. Crystalline gray or metallic.

'An Exposition of the Entropy Theory,' by J. E. Trevor; 'Entropy and Heat-Capacity,' by J. E. Trevor; 'The Relation of the Taste of Acid Salts to their Degree of Dissociation, II,' by Louis Kahlenberg—showing that the theory of electrolytic dissociation does not satisfactorily account for the phenomena connected with the sour taste of acid salts of weak acids. A rejoinder to the work of T. W. Richards and of A. A. Noyes.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

EMINENT AMERICAN MEN OF SCIENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE of August 17th I notice the names of about twenty eminent Americans proposed as suitable to be engraved in the Hall of Fame of the New York University and also your question as to how many men of science should be included, and who they should be. In response to the query I beg respectfully to suggest the following names: Professor O. C. Marsh, Professor E. D. Cope, Dr. James Hall, Dr. D. G. Brinton, Professor J. D. Dana, Professor Newberry, Professor Orton, and Professor Alexander Winchell, in addition to those already mentioned. I do not see how these eight names could be omitted from such a list, nor do I see how the names of Henry, Silliman, Torrey, Gray, Hitchcock, and Baird could be left out. I

should think that at least thirty men of science should be included among the one hundred.

HENRY MONTGOMERY.

TRINITY UNIVERSITY, TORONTO,
August 20, 1900.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ATOMIC WEIGHTS.

SCIENCE for August 17th contained a resumé of the report of the committee of the German Chemical Society, giving the views of the International Commission on Atomic Weights. On the chief point at issue, the selection of a standard for atomic weights, with the exception of six German members and one American (Professor Mallet), the commission was unanimous for oxygen = 16. This point, at least, would have seemed settled, but the German minority have in the last *Chemical News* reopened the question. The essence of their argument for H = 1 is comprised in the following paragraph:

"For the teacher, simplicity and clearness of the foundation seem specially important; instruction must suffer no harm with regard to the enlightening construction of the law of volumes, no shadow of doubt must penetrate the doctrine of valency. Regard for the understanding of prospective chemists will compel us therefore, under all circumstances, in teaching and in our text-books, to retain Dalton's numbers, and Professor F. W. Clarke, the worthy editor of the Annual Atomic Weight Tables of the American Chemical Society, authorizes us to say that he recommends the retaining of the standard H = 1. For if numbers were used in practice which were unsuitable to use in teaching, confusion would be the natural consequence, instead of the unanimity desired by all."

The German minority therefore calls upon all teachers of chemistry in universities and technical high schools to take a definite position in regard to this matter, and to send their answers to the subjoined questions to Professor J. Volhard, Halle-a-S., Mühlporfte 1, at their earliest convenience. The editor of the *Chemical News* also desires to publish copies of these replies. The questions are as follows:

1. Shall the unity of hydrogen be retained as the standard for reckoning atomic weights?
2. Shall the atomic weights be given approximately with two decimal places in which the