

A New Academy.—On the 13th of January the Humboldt Academy was opened in Berlin. The object of the institution is to furnish an opportunity to supply special deficiencies of education to persons who have not been able to avail themselves of a regular course of university instruction.—*Fortsch. der Zeit.* C.

Lime Cartridges.—Unslaked lime may be substituted for powder in quarries if it is compressed into cartridges, placed in the drill holes and then saturated with water. By using these cartridges in coal mines there is less waste from small coal than when ordinary powder is employed, and there is less danger of accidents from the flying fragments and from vitiated air.—*Fortsch. der Zeit.* C.

Soundings in Algeria.—Commandant Roudaire reports that two soundings have been completed and a third is under way. After penetrating to ten metres [32·8 ft.] below low water level he found nothing but sands and marly clays. The Arabs come in flocks in search of work. It would be easy to obtain any number at 90 centimes [18 cts.] per day. Fresh water is found at the depth of four metres [13·12 ft.] below the surface of the isthmus of Gabés, even at points which are most elevated above the level of the sea. The advantage of this supply will be readily seen upon reflecting that in the piercing of the isthmus of Suez it was necessary first to employ 2000 camels to bring water to the workmen, and afterwards to bring the water of the Nile along the docks by means of a canal.—*Comptes Rendus.* C.

Wood Dyeing.—G. A. Schoen wished to give an old appearance to some articles of oak wood by rubbing them with oil of aniline, which, as is well known, browns rapidly, but he could only produce a mahogany tint. He then first painted the wood with a solution of aniline salt which penetrates the wood very rapidly, and colors it yellow. He next gave a coating of a solution of caustic soda, to set the aniline at liberty, when there immediately appeared a deep brown hue like that of old oak. The same effect was observed in walnut, plum and other wood. He was equally successful in giving a black tint to various kinds of wood by impregnating them successively with aniline salt, bichromate of potash and soda, allowing them to dry after each application. The coloring was very uniform, penetrating the knots as well as the softer portions of the wood.—*Bull. de la Soc. Industr.* C.