

KENTUCKY STUDENTS SAY EVOLUTION HELPED FAITH

Evolution, though the target of the Fundamentalists of Kentucky who for several years have tried to get it banned by legislation similar to that of Tennessee, does not harm the religion of university students but rather helps it, if the testimony of the students themselves be accepted. Dr. Austin R. Middleton, of the University of Louisville, stated in his address as retiring president of the Kentucky Academy of Science, that he had questioned his classes concerning the possible effects of the doctrine. Of 132 essays on the subject written by the students, only five held that evolution was not true. Of the remainder eighty writers stated that their religious beliefs had been strengthened, and not one student, even among the five opposed to evolution, claimed that the teaching of the theory tended to weaken faith.

GOLD TRANSMUTATION CLAIMS MAKE GERMAN CHEMISTS ROW

Gold from mercury - was it really made by Prof. A. Miethe in his electric tube?

This question, which has been agitating the scientific world for the past two years, was thrashed out at a hot session of the German Chemical Society at Berlin, crowded with dramatic situations and personal clashes of the debating scientists.

The opponents of the claims of Prof. A. Miethe and Dr. Hantaro Nagaoka, who independently worked out the process by which they claim to have produced gold from a baser metal, massed an attack against the German and Japanese scientists, and were met by the stout defense of their supporters.

Prof. E. Riensenfeld of the University of Berlin declared that distillation of mercury to absolute purity was impossible - that there would always be traces of gold present to vitiate the results of the experiment. Prof. E. Tiede of the same University presented a flat counter-claim, stating that he had obtained pure mercury, gold-free, without difficulty; but he added that when he repeated Prof. Miethe's experiment the results were wholly negative.

Prof. Fritz Haber, famous for his contribution to the solution of the fixed nitrogen problem, outlined the extreme difficulty of obtaining absolutely pure mercury, and of keeping it pure throughout the long course of an experiment. The presence of gold even at a distance, as in the operator's spectacle-frames or in metal compounds in an adjoining room, he said, might spoil the experiment through being drawn in ultramicroscopic quantities into the electric current, by an effect like that of the cathode rays.

Prof. E. Duhme stated that mercury always contains traces of gold, but that these may not be capable of detection except after considerable ageing of the mercury by standing, or even by being subjected to an electric current.

The end of the session was enlivened by a personal clash between Prof. Haber and Dr. H. Stammreich, Prof. Miethe's assistant.

Prof. Miethe in an interview with a representative of Science Service stated he sees no present reason for changing his views. The process really active in