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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1900.

THE VANT HOFF CELEBRATION.

CONTENTS:

<i>The Van't Hoff Celebration</i> : PROFESSOR HARRY C. JONES.....	241
<i>The Meeting of Naturalists at Chicago</i> : PROFESSOR C. B. DAVENPORT.....	246
<i>Some of the Problems of Limnology</i> : PROFESSOR E. A. BIRGE.....	253
<i>A Preliminary Account of some of the Results of the Plankton Work of the Illinois Biological Station</i> : PROFESSOR C. A. KOFOID.....	255
<i>Malaria and Tuberculosis</i>	258
<i>Scientific Books</i> :—	
<i>Tarde's Social Laws</i> : PROFESSOR LESTER F. WARD. <i>Von Ihering's die Conchylien der patagonischen Formation</i> : DR. J. B. HATCHER. <i>Geological Survey of Canada</i> : DR. H. M. AMI. <i>MacBride on North American Slime Moulds</i> : PROFESSOR GEORGE F. ATKINSON.....	260
<i>Societies and Academies</i> :—	
<i>Section of Biology of the New York Academy of Sciences</i> : PROFESSOR FRANCIS E. LLOYD.....	269
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>Do the Reactions of the Lower Animals against Injury indicate Pain Sensations?</i> : DR. G. V. N. DEARBORN. <i>Plant Material for Laboratory Use in the Schools</i> . PROFESSOR GEO. F. ATKINSON..	270
<i>Do Fishes Remember?</i> : DR. EDWARD THORNDIKE.....	273
<i>The German Consular Service</i>	274
<i>Education in the United States</i>	274
<i>Education Administration in the State of New York</i> ..	275
<i>Indian University for Research</i>	276
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	276
<i>University and Educational News</i>	280

A QUARTER of a century has passed since Van't Hoff obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. This event was celebrated on December 22, 1899, in Rotterdam, by his students and a number of guests, including some of the leading men of science. An extra volume of the *Zeitschrift für physikalische Chemie*, containing investigations by those who, at some time, had worked with Van't Hoff, was published and presented to him on this occasion.

What does this mean; why has such an unusual tribute been paid to this comparatively young man?

There is nothing more inspiring to workers in the field of science, than the lives and works of those who are the leaders of modern science. Let us turn to the biographical sketch of Van't Hoff, by Ostwald, which serves as a preface to the 'Jubelband.'

Van't Hoff is the son of a Dutch physician, and was born in Rotterdam, August 30, 1852. He received his early training at a high school in his native city, and at seventeen entered the Polytechnic Institute in Delft. He then studied at Leiden, with Kekulé at Bonn, and with Würtz in Paris. He made the doctor's degree at the University of Utrecht, on the 22d of December, 1874. In 1876 he became docent at the veterinary school in Utrecht, and in 1877 was called to the University in Amsterdam. In 1894

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