THE MISSION OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION.*

The average graduate from an American university needs no counsel as to his conduct when he comes to face 'the untried world.' He has had his eyes open, and has tried the world more or less, often too much; and has already been surcharged with advice from those of larger experience. If he does not know the elements of success, it is not because he has failed to hear of them; and it only remains for him to receive the teaching which comes from experience. I address these graduates, therefore, with the consciousness that it is too late to add effective advice, and too early to appeal to their experience. I come, therefore, not to youths who are about to be sent away for the first time from the fostering care of a mother, but to university men and women, interested in whatever concerns higher education, and I wish to speak to them of the mission of science in education.

In its broadest sense science includes all knowledge, but the reference here made is to the ordinary application of the word in schemes of education. Perhaps even this needs limitation, if by chance any one has confused reading about science with scientific training; for reference is made to science taught by the laboratory method, which merely means direct and personal contact with the subject matter.

* An address delivered at the annual commencement of the University of Michigan, June 21, 1900.