Relations of the National Government to higher Education and Research: Dr. Charles D. Walcott

The Royal Society of Canada: Dr. H. M. Ami

Science and the London University


Societies and Academies:— Zoological Club of the University of Chicago: Dr. C. M. Child. Torrey Botanical Club: Dr. M. A. Howe. The Minnesota Academy of Natural Sciences: F. G. Warvelle. 1026

Discussion and Correspondence:—

Geology of China: Professor G. Frederick Wright. The Largy as an Instrument of Music: Dr. Jonathan Wright. 1029

Shorter Articles:—

Predetermined Root-hair cells in Azolla and other Plants: R. G. Leavitt. 1030

Quotations:—

Science at a Wesleyan University. Mr. Carnegie's Gift to Scottish Universities. 1031

Current Notes on Physiology:—

The South Coast of England: The Origin of Fiords: Views of the Colorado Cañon; Koko Volcano, Sumatra: Professor W. M. Davis. 1032

Current Notes on Meteorology:—

Weather and Crops in Saxony; Rainfall and Forests in India; Periodicity of Severe Winters in England; Notes: R. Dec. Ward. 1034

Columbia University Biological Lectures: J. H. McG. 1035

The British National Physical Laboratory. 1036

Scientific Notes and News. 1037

University and Educational News. 1039

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Relations of the National Government to Higher Education and Research.*

When one considers the relations of the General Government to higher education and research, probably the first question to arise is, What, within the limitations imposed by the Constitution, can the Government do? Other pertinent inquiries are: What has been done? What is the present policy of the Government? How are its educational resources being utilized? What can be done that is not already being well done by our universities, colleges and technical institutions?

Many of our wisest and best statesmen and jurists believe that the General Government has no power, under the Constitution, to appropriate money for educational purposes, that important function having been left to the States. A glance backward over the history of colonial and national discussion and legislation is interesting and instructive.

History of Colonial and National Discussion.

In colonial times Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh were to American youth the centers of learning and higher education. These famous universities furnished all that

*Substance of address before the University of Chicago, delivered June 17, 1901.
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