SCIENCE
A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.


Friday, May 16, 1902.

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METALLURGICAL LABORATORIES.*

To an old friend of the great captain whose munificence we celebrate to-day this privilege of adding a word of enthusiastic praise is most welcome. Let us congratulate Lafayette on this princely gift, and still more on the princely heart that prompted the princely gift. It is a pleasure to watch the growth and success of one whom we esteem; a very great pleasure to see the responsibility of that wealth which so often intoxicates where it should sober, so soberly and so wisely borne.

While the value of the metallurgical laboratory for purposes of investigation is evident, yet as instruments for teaching undergraduate students so few of these laboratories have been in long use, and their methods, aims and merits have been so little discussed, that not only the thoughtful part of the public, not only educators in general, but even a very large fraction of our metallurgical educators themselves, have but hazy notions about them. Indeed, there are many whose opinions cannot be ignored, many eminent metallurgical educators, who still doubt or even deny the value of the metallurgical laboratory for this purpose. Under these conditions it seems well that those of us

* An address delivered at the Dedication of the Gayley Laboratory of Chemistry and Metallurgy, Lafayette College, April 5, 1902.