Friday, May 15, 1903.

CONTENTS:
Medical Education in the United States: Dr. Frank Billings ........................................ 761

The Rare Earth Crusade—What it portends, Scientifically and Technically: Professor Chas. Baskerville ............. 772

Scientific Books:—
   Chemical Text-books: Professor Jas. Lewis Howe. Zoological Text-books: Professor V. L. Kellogg. Grassel’s L’Hypnotisme et la suggestion: J. J. ........................................ 781

Scientific Journals and Articles ......................... 789

Societies and Academies:—

Discussion and Correspondence:—

Current Notes on Meteorology:—
   Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India; Dunn’s ‘The Weather’; Notes: Professor R. DeC. Ward ............. 796

General James T. Stratton: Rort E. C. Stearns ......................... 797

Scientific Notes and News............................... 797
University and Educational News ...................... 799

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MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.*

One of the chief objects of the organization of the American Medical Association was the elevation of the standard of medical education in the United States. In the president’s address, the Father of the Association, Dr. N. S. Davis, stated that ‘the purpose of the organization was the improvement of our system of medical education and the direct advancement of medical science and practice.’† That medical education in that day was defective, as recognized by the founders of the Association, is shown by the report of the Committee on Medical Education in the year 1850. The committee said, in part, as follows: ‘Medical education is defective because there are too many medical schools; the teachers are too few. There are too many students. The quantity of medicine taught is too limited; the quality too superficial, and the mode of bestowal of the honors of medicine too profuse and too unrestricted.’

* President’s address, delivered at the fifty-fourth annual session of the American Medical Association, at New Orleans, May 5–8, 1903.