

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, APRIL 22, 1904.

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THE GROWTH AND FUNCTION OF THE MODERN LABORATORY.*

It is opportune, upon an occasion such as this, when we are assembled at the dedication of the newest of scientific laboratories, to consider for a moment the process of development by which they arrived at the state of efficiency of which this building is so striking an example. Then, too, it is of vital interest to those of us whose work lies in laboratories, and of much more than passing interest to every individual in the community, to have a clear idea as to what good purpose this and other similar institutions may be expected to serve, and how best they may accomplish that purpose.

The marvelous advances of the past seventy-five years are well enough known to us all, and never fail to fill us with astonishment when we stop to think about them. Discoveries and applications of discoveries have followed each other with such rapidity that our sense of appreciation is in a measure blunted, and we fail to realize adequately what they mean to each one of us, in comfort and convenience. No sooner did we become accustomed to the fact that we could telegraph across the ocean, than we were occupied in wondering at our ability to telephone to any one within a radius of several miles, and the great present extension of this radius, and the high probability that we shall be able to talk across the Atlantic in a very few years, does not meet appreciation to correspond

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* An address read at the dedication exercises of Palmer Hall, Colorado College, February 22, 1904.

Science

19 (486)

Science **19** (486), 641-680.

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