

# SCIENCE

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## THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS. WHAT ACADEMIC DEGREES SHOULD BE CONFERRED FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK?\*

THE CHAIRMAN (PROFESSOR TRELEASE):

The subject that has been selected for the afternoon's discussion is one of very considerable interest to all of us as investigators, and further, to those of us who are teachers as well—the question as to what academic degrees should be conferred for scientific work. From the time when one of our little people comes home from the primary school with a long narrow strip of yellow paper with various hieroglyphics on it that he has made himself, and with certain blue pencil marks which may read 100, or 90, or 40, we are confronted by one phase of the question that we are to analyze this afternoon. The arithmetical grading of our attainments and our personality begins at the very moment that we go into the kindergarten, and it does not end until a well-disposed clergyman tries to find something good to say of the worst of us when we are through with our life's work. Everywhere between the kindergarten and the grave we are confronted with the fact that a kind of stamp is put upon us in every one of the complications of life that we may fall into.

What are we trying to do as teachers is of course perfectly clear to every one of us. Those of us who are teachers are trying to equip people for useful work in life. The situation is not unlike that of cur-

\* Annual discussion, St. Louis meeting, December, 1903. Reported stenographically and corrected by the speakers.

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