SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1910

CONTENTS

Practical Science: Professor John M. Coulter .................................. 881

Botany in its Relations to Agricultural Advancement: C. V. Piper .......... 889

Scientific Notes and News .............................................. 900

University and Educational News ..................................... 902

Scientific Books:—


Scientific Journals and Articles .................................... 907

Botanical Notes:—

Forests as Gatherers of Nitrogen; A Study of Peat-bog Floras; The Principle of Homozygosis: Professor Charles E. Bessey 908

Paleogeography of North America: Dr. Eliot Blackwelder ............... 909

Special Articles:—

Webber's Brown Fungus: H. S. Fawcett. A corrected Classification of the Edentates: H. H. Lane ...................... 912

The North Carolina Academy of Science: Dr. E. W. Gudger ............. 914

Societies and Academies:—


MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

PRACTICAL SCIENCE

Men who spend their lives in universities are apt to develop certain unfortunate peculiarities. These peculiarities may not make them less happy, or less useful to their professional students, but they diminish the appreciation of the community at large. In the life of an instructor or investigator of university rank there is a peculiar kind of isolation that is bound to react.

It is partly the isolation of a subject, which is more or less segregated from general human interests, at least in the aspects of it the university man is cultivating. As a consequence, he feels that his world is quite apart from that one in which the majority of men are living. He is conscious of an interest distinct from their interests, which seem therefore relatively trivial. This sense of intellectual aloofness does not result in a feeling of loneliness, but rather in a feeling of superiority, unconscious in many cases, but often naively expressed.

It is also the isolation of authority, which comes from mastery of a subject and from association with students who recognize this mastery. To speak with authority in intellectual matters, to give the deciding word, to meet a constant succession of inferiors, is apt to affect any man's brain. Either he becomes dogmatic in expression, or he must hold himself in check with an effort. It is the same reaction that was observed in the case of the clergy, when acknowledged authority in position

1 Address at the winter convocation, 1910, of the University of Chicago.
Editor's Summary

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only.

Article Tools
Visit the online version of this article to access the personalization and article tools:
http://science.sciencemag.org/content/31/806.citation

Permissions
Obtain information about reproducing this article:
http://www.sciencemag.org/about/permissions.dtl