The Palmer Physical Laboratory

The Palmer Physical Laboratory of Princeton University was erected and equipped by the generosity of Stephen S. Palmer, Esq., of Princeton, to meet the rapidly growing needs of the departments of physics and electrical engineering. The building is devoted entirely to the uses of the two departments. It is a two-story and basement structure of brick and Indiana limestone, and is a striking addition to the group of collegiate Gothic buildings which have been added to Princeton’s equipment in recent years. Mr. H. J. Hardenbergh, of New York, was the architect.

The laboratory is, roughly, H-shaped, with the tongue of the H shifted laterally towards the front. The location of the building and the contour of the land are peculiarly favorable for an abundant supply of air and light to all parts of the building. The land slopes away rapidly toward the south, so that while but two stories show in front, the wings and the back have three full stories above ground level. The constant temperature, electrical standards and ventilating rooms are almost wholly under ground; yet the machine shops, electrical laboratories and professors’ and private research rooms, which occupy the balance of the basement, are entirely above ground.

A double problem had to be solved in the planning of the building—provision had to be made for the accommodation of the very large amount of work necessitated by the required courses in physics, both theoretical and experimental, and by the con-