The Function and Efficiency of the Agricultural College

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CONTENTS
The Function and Efficiency of the Agricultural College: Professor W. H. Jordan . . 773
A Study of Retardation in the Schools of Minnesota: F. E. Lurton ................. 785
An Anthropological Survey of Canada: Dr. Edward Sapir .......................... 789
The Museum of Anthropology of the University of California ....................... 794
Scientific Notes and News ............................................. 794
University and Educational News ............ 799
Discussion and Correspondence:—
The Francis Galton Laboratory for National Eugenics: Professor Karl Pearson. An Early Discussion of Heredity: Professor R. C. Punnett. Note on the Ohio Placoderm Dinichthys terrelli: Professor Bashford Dean. The Number of Students to a Teacher in State Colleges and Universities: President George E. Vincent, Dean E. A. Birge, Professor Charles Hart Handschin ........................................... 799
Quotations:—
The Proposed Reform of the Calendar .... 803
Scientific Books:—
Tick (Ixodoidea) Generic Names to be included in the ‘‘Official List of Zoological Names: Dr. Ch. Wardell Stiles .............. 812
The National Academy of Sciences ........ 812

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THE FUNCTION AND EFFICIENCY OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

It would be an indication of ingratitude and inappreciation if I failed to acknowledge at this time the great honor of being elected to preside over your deliberations, an honor commensurate with the distinguished history and eminent usefulness of this association. Because it has been my good fortune to attend these meetings from their very beginning, in addressing you on this occasion I can not be accused of speaking without knowledge and understanding if at first I refer in the spirit of congratulation to the benefits of this organization, both for those of us who have participated in its deliberations and for the institutions which it represents.

Not the least important outcome of these assemblages are the personal relations that have been established. The hand clasp that has spanned a continent has not only made possible the formation of friendships that have greatly enriched our lives, but thereby has come a sympathetic touch of laborers in the same field so essential to unity of purpose and understanding. We would all feel impoverished, personally and officially, if there were withdrawn from the sum of our life experiences the beneficent results of the intercourse that these meetings have afforded.

Because we are friends as well as co-workers, we keenly feel the absence from our midst of those who have passed out of life’s activities. Two of the best beloved of our long-time associates have entered into their final rest during the year that has passed. For many years these gather-
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