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QUA VADIMUS?¹

CONTENTS

<i>Qua Vadimus?</i> PROFESSOR ERNST COHEN	407
<i>So-called Volcanic Earthquakes:</i> DR. T. A. JAGGAR.....	414
<i>New York City as a Field for Earthquake Study:</i> DR. CHESTER A. REEDS.....	415
<i>William E. Safford:</i> DR. WILL C. BARNES.....	418
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>Development of the Biological Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor; The Mellon Lectures at the University of Pittsburgh; Grants from the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund; Resignations in the Department of Dermatology at Columbia University; The Madrid Meeting of the International Geological Congress</i>	419
<i>Scientific Notes and News.....</i>	422
<i>University and Educational Notes.....</i>	425
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i>	
<i>Maps for the International Geological Congress at Madrid:</i> PROFESSOR RICHARD M. FIELD. <i>Science Service and the Location of Earthquakes:</i> WATSON DAVIS. <i>The Automobile and Wild Life:</i> W. P. FLINT. <i>On Einstein's Theory of Relativity:</i> CHARLES L. R. E. MENGES. <i>Iodine in Thyroid Deficiency:</i> PROFESSOR GILBERT D. HARRIS.....	425
<i>Scientific Books:</i>	
<i>Kyle on the Biology of Fishes:</i> DR. DAVID STARR JORDAN	428
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>On the Equilibrium between the Enamel of the Teeth and the Saliva:</i> DR. J. F. McCLENDON. <i>Fluorides vs. Fluosilicates as Insecticides:</i> R. C. ROARK	430
<i>The Tulsa Meeting of the American Chemical Society:</i> DR. CHARLES L. PARSONS	432
<i>Science News</i>	x

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The task of an investigator requires for its success the toughness of a soldier, the temper of a saint and the training of a scholar.—*Humphry Davy.*

The philosopher should be a man willing to listen to every suggestion, but determined to judge for himself. He should not be biased by appearances; have no favorite hypothesis; be of no school; and in doctrine have no master. He should not be a respecter of persons, but of things. Truth should be his primary subject. If to these qualities be added industry, he may indeed hope to walk within the veil of the temple of nature.—*Michael Faraday.*

FROM the orb which daily throws its golden rays upon this university,² came on November 14, 1925, the announcement of an anonymous gift to Cornell, the income of which is to be used for the "benefit and advancement of teaching and research in chemistry. The gift was made to enable the University to carry out a plan formulated by Professor L. M. Dennis, Head of the Department of Chemistry. Distinguished men of this and other countries in chemistry and allied fields of science were to be invited to spend one or two semesters at Cornell delivering lectures, conducting research, and generally collaborating with the Department while in residence here."

Some days later there followed the announcement, "Dutch chemist accepts offer to teach here." Let me assure you that I feel very much honored by your kindness in choosing me as the first incumbent and that I fully realize the duties laid upon me by your doing so. I sincerely hope that this establishment of the new "non-resident lectureship" may, as the years go on, bring the results that were in the mind of the anonymous benefactor when he made this generous gift to Cornell.

When, for about a quarter of a century, a man has, day after day, devoted himself to university instruction, has seen numerous generations enter the Temple of Minerva, and has seen them leave her sanctum decked with the doctor's hood, when he has passed those years in unbroken and intimate intercourse with his pupils, it is obvious that he is perfectly well acquainted with the difficulties which many of them have met on their way.

¹ Introductory public lecture delivered by Professor Ernst Cohen, first incumbent of the non-resident lectureship in chemistry recently established at Cornell University.

² *The Cornell Daily Sun.*

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