Honor Societies: Dr. E. P. Lyon ........................................ 325

Obituary:
Richard Mills Pearce, Junior: Dr. Simon Flexner 331

Scientific Events:
An African Mammal Hall for the Museum of
the California Academy of Sciences; The Second
Bermuda Oceanographic Expedition; The Medal
Awards of the American Geographical Society;
Celebration of Fifty Years of Engineering Prog-
ress by the American Society of Mechanical En-
gineers .......................................................... 332

Scientific Notes and News ........................................... 335

Discussion:
Enveloping Membranes of Echinoderm Ova: Dr.
Robert Chambers. The Electron and Radiation:
Dr. R. D. Kleeman. Note on Haemoglobin: Dr.
A. Bruce Macallum and R. C. Bradly. A
Fossil Mammal with Unborn Twins: Dr. Cleophas
C. O’Hara. Babylonian Mathematics: Profes-
sor R. C. Archibald. Useful Great Toes: Dr. W.
W. Keen .......................................................... 340

Scientific Books:
Howell’s Revision of the American Chipmunks:
Professor T. D. A. CockeBELL ............................... 342

Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:
A Simple Spot-plate Test for Nitrate Nitrogen
in Soil and Other Extracts: M. Francis Morgan.
The Capnometer, an Instrument for the Measure-
ment of Air Pollution: Dr. H. B. Meller .............. 343

Special Articles:
A Theory of the Ring Method for the Determina-
tion of Surface Tension: Professor B. B. Freud
and Dr. H. Z. Freud. Prolonged Effect on Dig-
talis purpurae of Exposure under Ultra-violet-
transmitting Glass: Dr. Adelia MccaB .................. 345

Science News ........................................................ x

HONOR SOCIETIES

By Dr. E. P. Lyon
Dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School

The other day a recent graduate of our school came
in to see me. He had just completed his internship
and was trying to decide whether to begin practice or
to enter upon graduate study. Across his stomach—
it was too low for his heart!—I observed a watch
chain from which dangled four golden keys. There
was Phi Beta Kappa. He was the best scholar in his
class in a well-known college, and he hung that key
on his chain when he took his A.B. degree. There
was Sigma Xi. He gathered that in his second year
of medicine by spending his spare time—oh, yes! a
good man has spare time!—and his vacations in the
bacteriological laboratory and writing a nice original
paper. The third was Alpha Omega Alpha. Those
present know how he got that. He stood second in his
class in medical school, and the Minnesota Chap-
ter took several dollars of his (father’s?) money and
presented him with the mystic emblem which goes

1 Delivered before the Alpha Omega Alpha Society,
St. Louis University Medical School.

Revelations one half better, for it says, “I am Alpha
and Omega and Alpha over again.” Finally there
was the key of the licentiate of the National Board of
Medical Examiners.

As I talked with this young man I remember thinking
that each of those jewels stood for a good job of
work. I knew he had earned each one of them. I
also thought that each combination of Greek letters
represented a motto—a phrase of admonition and
guidance. And I thought, “This boy deserves his
baubles, but I doubt whether he could tell in a single
case what the letters stand for.” And I thought,
“What storehouses will those keys open for this man?
Alas, they will open no locks. He will have to pick
the locks. I think he can do it.”

Just then one of his old classmates came in, hit
my man on the back and scoffed: “Oh boy! Lamp the
decorations! Looks like a row of anchors on the side
of a battle-ship! Say, Saint Peter, you ought to get
a key ring and carry those things in your hip pocket.”