

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1901.

ANNUAL DISCUSSION BEFORE THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS.*

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THE ATTITUDE OF THE STATE TOWARD SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION.

A FAIR criterion of intelligence in the government of a country is afforded by an examination of its annual budget. There is first the provision for a certain number of expenditures which are purely conservative, because the State must maintain itself, it must defend itself, it must support a large class of office holders who are more or less useful. Without knowing the figures it is safe to say that the budget of Russia is chiefly of this order. These expenditures may be wisely and honestly made, but they largely go to waste; they are either immediately productive or altogether non-productive. On the other hand, there are expenditures in the nature of investments, looking to the future and characterizing the most far-sighted statesmanship. Conspicuous among these are the funds invested in education and science.

Said Helmholtz in 1862*: "In fact men of science form, as it were, an organized army, laboring on behalf of the whole nation, and generally under its direction and

* Given at the Baltimore Meeting, 1900.

† 'On the Relation of Natural Science to General Science' (Heidelberg, 1862), 'Popular Lectures on Scientific Subjects' by H. Helmholtz. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1873. Pp. 28-30.

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