

SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

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FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1901.

THE DIGNITY OF CHEMISTRY.*

CONTENTS :

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>The Dignity of Chemistry</i> : DR. H. W. WILEY... | 721 |
| <i>Diamond-Glass Fluorescence</i> : DR. ARTHUR L. FOLEY | 732 |
| <i>How Botany is Studied and Taught in Japan</i> : KRICHI MIYAKÉ | 734 |
| <i>Scientific Bkoks :—</i> | |
| <i>Schuyler on Reservoirs for Irrigation, Water Power and Domestic Water Supply</i> : PROFESSOR I. P. CHURCH. <i>Annual Report of the War Department</i> : PROFESSOR R. H. THURSTON. <i>Titchener's Experimental Psychology</i> : PROFESSOR JOSEPH JASTROW. <i>Pierce on Peach Leaf Curl. Books Received</i> | 738 |
| <i>Societies and Academies :—</i> | |
| <i>American Mathematical Society</i> : DR. EDWARD KASNER. <i>Zoological Journal Club of the University of Michigan</i> : PROFESSOR H. S. JENNINGS | 744 |
| <i>Discussion and Correspondence :—</i> | |
| <i>Correction to André's Astronomie stellaire</i> : PROFESSOR GEORGE C. COMSTOCK. <i>An Appeal for Cooperation in Magnetic and Allied Observations during the Total Solar Eclipse of May 17-18, 1901</i> : DR. L. A. BAUER. <i>Clayton's Eclipse Cyclone and the Diurnal Cyclones</i> : H. HELM CLAYTON. <i>Leland Stanford Junior University</i> : PROFESSOR J. C. BRANNER and others..... | 746 |
| <i>Current Notes on Physiography :—</i> | |
| <i>Topographic Atlas of the United States ; Terraces fronting the Rocky Mountains ; The Formation of Deserts</i> : PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS..... | 751 |
| <i>The American Geographical Society</i> | 753 |
| <i>Resolution of the Committee of Central Naturalists</i> ... | 753 |
| <i>Scientific Positions under the Government</i> | 754 |
| <i>Scientific Notes and News</i> | 755 |
| <i>University and Educational News</i> | 760 |

CHEMISTRY as a profession may be said to have completed its hundredth year, and we have met to-night to celebrate the quarto-centennial of chemical organization in America.

In our democratic country, all attempts to create a class or caste should be discouraged, especially if the attempt be made to endow the class with unusual or special privileges. We have no place for an hereditary or purchasable aristocracy, but in the function of the civic body there must be specialization, and those individuals who by choice or fortuitous incident devote themselves to special duties are brought together by occupation, by congeniality and by desire for mutual helpfulness and improvement. In this mutual attraction we find the genesis of all trade and professional organization. The aggregate is always stronger than the segregate. This unity of purpose and this conformity of effort become reprehensible only when autocratic, imperative and insolent. The assumption of superior virtues, the assertion of peculiar privileges and the interference with the rights of others are never to be advocated nor condoned.

* An address delivered before the American Chemical Society, April 12, 1901, on the occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Society.

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