

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1914

THE DAY OF THE EXPERT¹

CONTENTS

<i>The Day of the Expert</i> : DR. BENJAMIN IVES GILMAN	771
<i>A Tribute to Dr. Henry P. Walcott</i>	779
<i>The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching</i>	780
<i>The Preliminary Announcement of the San Francisco Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science</i>	781
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	782
<i>University and Educational News</i>	784
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>Modesty Overworked</i> : PROFESSOR J. PLAYFAIR McMURRICK. <i>The Fanny Emden Prize of the Paris Academy</i> : PROFESSOR JOSEPH JASTROW	785
<i>Scientific Books</i> :—	
<i>Graham-Smith on Flies in Relation to Disease</i> : DR. L. O. HOWARD. <i>Tilden on the Progress of Scientific Chemistry</i> : PROFESSOR WILDER D. BANCROFT	787
<i>Botanical Notes</i> :—	
<i>Protococcus, not Pleurococcus</i> ; <i>Short Notes</i> : PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY	790
<i>Special Articles</i> :—	
<i>The Solar Spectrum and the Earth's Crust</i> : PROFESSOR HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL	791
<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science</i> :—	
<i>Section K—Physiology and Experimental Medicine</i> : DR. L. O. HOWARD	794
<i>The American Physical Society</i> : PROFESSOR A. D. COLE	796
<i>The Society of American Bacteriologists. II</i> : DR. A. PARKER HITCHENS	798

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE papers read before the American Association of Museums during the eight years of its life have covered a wide range of topics, reaching, one might imagine, the whole circle of museum interests. Yet there is one question, antecedent to all others, which has never been asked, and but once approached, in your presence. This is the question: Just what use are all these papers? We meet to develop and exchange our ideas; but when we separate, what power have we to put into effect what we have concluded and learned? We have the voice here. How much voice have we at home?

This question of official scope we share with every similar association; and with several it has recently become a burning question. Just a year ago there was formed an association of university professors for the determination and maintenance of professorial rights; and last winter the American Political Science Association and the Philosophical and Psychological Associations appointed committees to consider and report upon like matters.

A problem of problems like this offers appropriate matter for an initial presidential address; and its simultaneous agitation elsewhere suggests treating it in the broadest possible way—as a concern, not of one profession, but of all professions. Thus amplified, the topic becomes that of the present and future status of the specialist in the United States. Far as this theme stretches beyond the work of the permanent

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