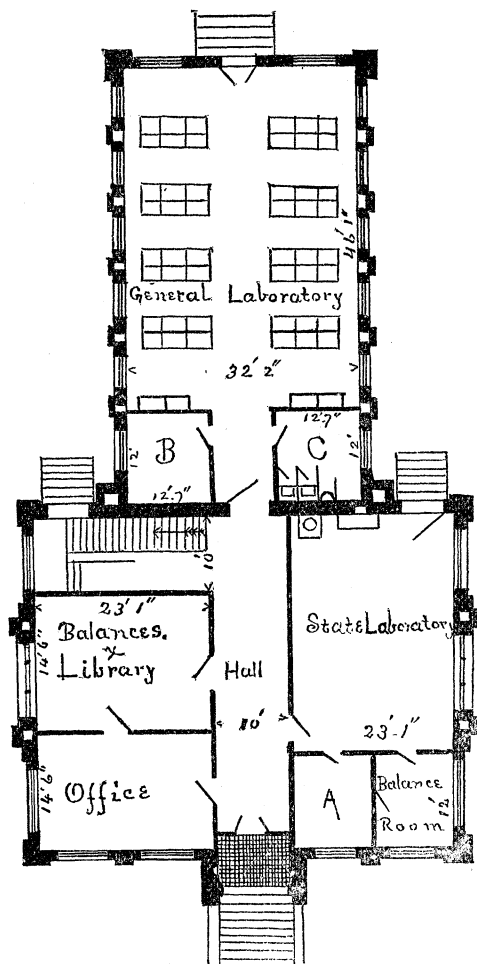


generally recognized as advantageous, and in some States required by law. It certainly seems, that, if physiology is to be taught, there would be just as few evils, and much more of value, accruing from the study of the principles of infection and subjects connected therewith, than results from the study of many subjects now taught under the head of physiology. The value of the study of bacteriology in the colleges and universities is more evident, and has been well shown in the letter of Mr. Theobald Smith, published in a recent number of this paper.

In conclusion, then, it may be said that our medical schools and profession generally have been and are advancing along this line of bacteriology as fast as can be expected. All of the larger schools have taken up the subject in a thorough manner, and many of the smaller ones are doing the same. The indications are, that a few years will see bacteriology established as a subject to be taught, either as a branch of pathology or otherwise, in all of the medical schools whose financial condition will warrant it. H. W. CONN.

#### CHEMICAL LABORATORY OF THE ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.

WE present in this number of *Science* a cut of the new chemical laboratory of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama, located at Auburn. The substantial growth of this institution has been such that the trustees, at their annual meeting in June of last year, authorized the construction of a new laboratory in con-



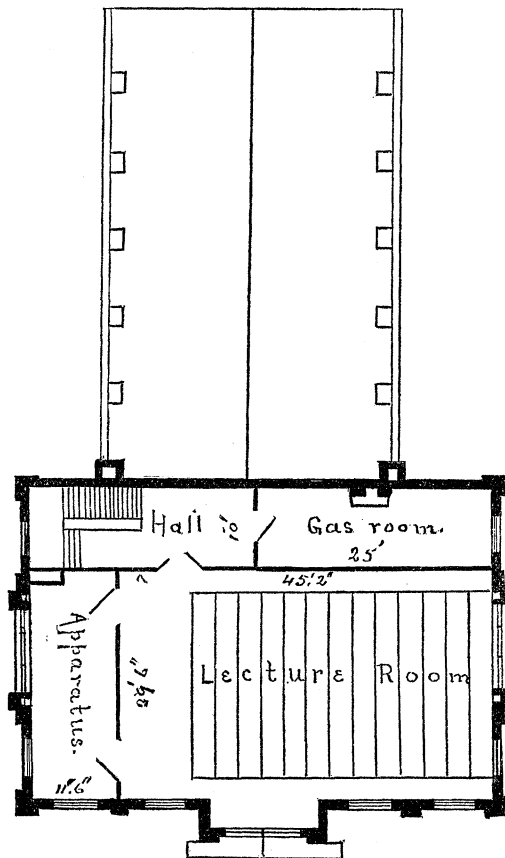
FIRST FLOOR.

A, Spectroscope and polariscope room; B, Assistant's private working-room; C, Combustion-furnace room.

nection with the Agricultural Experiment Station and the State Department of Agriculture, of which the professor of chemistry is the official chemist, and for original research. At a subsequent meeting in July, it was determined to erect a larger building than at first contemplated, and transfer to it the chemical department of the college.

The building is a handsome two-story structure, 40 by 60 feet, with a stately tower, and a rear projection 35 by 60 feet of one story, and basement. The exterior is of the best quality of pressed brick, laid in red mortar, with cut stone trimmings and terra-cotta ornamentation.

The main floor contains a central hall ten feet wide, with side hall for stairway of the same width, but extending only halfway



SECOND FLOOR.

across the building. On entering through the large archway under the tower, the first room to the left is the office of the professor of chemistry, to the rear of which is the library and balance-room. On the right, extending the whole length of the floor, is the State laboratory and laboratory for research. Two small rooms are cut off from this, one to be used as a balance-room, and the other for the spectroscope and polariscope. Leading from the rear of the main hall is the door which enters the large laboratory for general work. Two rooms are cut off from this,—one for combustion furnaces; and the other, a private working-room for the assistant.

In the basement are ample accommodations for assaying and storage. The main laboratory will accommodate sixty students, and, when the fitting-up is completed, will contain the latest improved working-tables, with water, gas, and every necessary appliance for chemical work. Niches in the walls opposite each working-table, with hoods where necessary, connect with flues, and furnish the best possible means of escape for deleterious vapors, while ventilators in the ceiling furnish additional means for getting rid of noxious gases. The pitch is sixteen feet in the clear, with panelled ceiling of oiled Southern pine. The rooms are wainscoted throughout, and finished in natural wood. The second story contains a large lecture-room and room for gas-analysis. Around this lecture-room, suitably arranged, will be cases for containing crude and manufactured products, illustrating the subjects of agricultural and industrial chemistry, which are prominent subjects taught in this institution. Since the war, the South has awakened to an appreciation of her vast industrial resources, and every effort is made to educate her young men in a way that will prepare them to utilize her vast deposits of coal and iron and marble, and other valuable minerals, as well as to maintain, and if possible to increase, the productive capacity of her soil.