

SCIENCE

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FUNCTIONS OF TECHNICAL SCIENCE IN EDUCATION FOR BUSINESS AND THE PROFESSIONS.*

" * * * to write now the reforming of education * * * one of the greatest and noblest designs that can be thought on, and for the want whereof this nation perishes. * * *"—Milton, 'Tractate.'

THE most remarkable and impressive movement of a period which has been well

* An address at the dedication of 'Engineering Hall,' Iowa State College, May 22, 1903.

named the 'wonderful century' was one which, from early and feeble beginnings, had been for generations slowly developing, and in rate of motion accelerating, until we to-day see it, in tremendous magnitude and power, affecting every department of human life. This movement causes progressive and cumulative changes in the methods and the products of the labors of the scholar and of the unskilled laborer, of the professional and of the mechanic, of the agriculturist and of the merchant; it changes the views and the studies of the historian, of the philosopher and the psychologist, of the business man and of the educator. It is the advance of the scientific spirit and method into all the fields of human learning and exertion. Scientific method is now dominant in all branches of human life.

This great change commenced with the earliest endeavors of thoughtful men to acquire knowledge by direct appeal to nature and experience. It acquired impetus as the experimental method and the spirit of research began sensibly to enrich our stores of learning and to yield their fine returns in the natural sciences. It assumed its firm grasp upon men's thought and controlled their work when invention and discovery and the upbuilding of new sciences impressed upon the minds of all sorts and conditions of men the fact that its methods were the only direct and sure