

# SCIENCE

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## CONTENTS:

<i>Doctorates Conferred by American Universities</i> .....	225
<i>Some Aspects of Medical Education: PROFESSOR DR. JOHN H. MUSSER</i> .....	230
<i>Nathan Smith Davis: FRANK S. JOHNSON</i> ...	237
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Investigations of the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory: PROFESSOR R. DEC. WARD. Van't Hoff's Vorlesungen über theoretische und physikalische Chemie: PROFESSOR ALEXANDER SMITH</i> .....	240
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles</i> .....	241
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>The Biological Society of St. Louis: J. ARTHUR HARRIS. American Fisheries Society</i> .....	241
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Areas in the United States Suitable for Beet Culture: DR. H. W. WILEY. Jordan on Fossil Labroid and Chætodont Fishes: DR. C. R. EASTMAN. The Ascent of Water: PROFESSOR G. MACLOSKIE. Analysis of a Complex Musical Tone: PROFESSOR W. S. FRANKLIN</i> .....	244
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>The Effect of Radium Rays on the Colon Bacillus, the Diphtheria Bacillus and Yeast: DR. C. S. PRESCOTT. A Wheat-Rye Hybrid: DR. H. F. ROBERTS</i> .....	246
<i>Notes on Inorganic Chemistry:—</i>	
<i>The Melting Point of Gold; Fused Soapstone Fibers; Explosions from Ferrosilicon; Bessemer vs. Open-hearth; Royal Society Conversaciones; Nature of Solutions: J. L. H.</i> .....	249
<i>Social and Economic Science:—</i>	
<i>University Competition for Graduate Students; Service of Science in Social Work; Virginia's Program of Educational Purposes: DR. JOHN FRANKLIN CROWELL</i> .....	251
<i>Opportunities in Anthropology at the World's Fair: W J MCGEE</i> .....	253
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	254
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	256

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## DOCTORATES CONFERRED BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.

WE publish for the seventh year statistics in regard to the doctorates conferred by our universities. The degree of doctor of philosophy or of science was received by 281 candidates from 24 institutions. In addition to the 34 universities and colleges from which returns have been received, there may be a few cases in which the degree has been conferred legitimately by smaller institutions, but they are certainly very few. As a matter of fact, four fifths of all the degrees are conferred by seven universities. There have not during the past seven years, and probably never previously, been so many degrees conferred as in the present year. The numbers for the seven years are 234, 222, 239, 253, 216, 266 and 281. The figures fluctuate from year to year, but indicate an increase in seven years of about twenty per cent. This seems to be disappointingly small. In an article by Dr. Tombo, recently (July 15) printed in this journal, it is stated that the number of graduate students has more than doubled in the past five years, and in an article by Dr. Mayer, also printed here (July 8), it is said that the number of graduate students increased two and a half times from 1890 to 1902. It is not clear why the number who receive the advanced degree should not increase as rapidly as the number of graduate students. This is not due to a raising of the standards, as these have remained about stationary; nor is it due to lack of encouragement on the part of the universities, as fellowships and other in-