

sities; but she can, by attempting to do so, lose her distinctive position and become illiberal and stupid. Let Harvard abandon the ambition to be the biggest college—or the second or sixth biggest college—and be content to remain the biggest influence in the college life of America. On the day after she had turned her face in this direction, there would be an improvement in spirit in every university in the country. The senseless rivalry to secure students would be, in some degree, relaxed and a new standard of ambition would be introduced. The large sums of money which Harvard is now raising and wasting to her own undoing, could be turned to other uses; and the energy of those men who toil so ceaselessly at Harvard's propaganda could be discharged where it belongs—into the business world.

I do not see any signs of such a change of front on Harvard's part, and I utter this only as a hope, and in an Emersonian spirit. But I will give one piece of practical advice upon the subject, so practical, in fact, that it sounds almost like the advice of a business man.

If you wish to have a university, you must have scholars and scientific men on the governing boards. With the exception of President Lowell there is not a scholar among "The President and Fellows of Harvard College." They are all business men, lawyers or doctors. Now doctors are, for hospital purposes, scientists and scholars; and I will wager that the Massachusetts hospitals will bear comparison with any hospitals in the world from every point of view. But if you should exclude the doctors from the boards of hospital management, as you have excluded learned men from the management of Harvard University; and if you should hand over the Massachusetts hospitals to the management of business men, as Harvard University has been handed over to the management of business men, your hospitals would soon sink below the standards of Europe. Now, learning is not safe if left exclusively in the hands of business men, just as philanthropy would not be safe if left exclusively in their

hands. Learning can be protected and transmitted only through the enthusiasm of those men to whom learning is a religion; that is to say, through scholars and the high priests of science.

JOHN JAY CHAPMAN

HISTORICAL GRAPHICS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Referring to the short article on "Historical Graphics," by Dr. Barus (page 272), I might say that two years ago during the summer vacation I worked out a similar historical chart for botany, and used almost exactly the same methods that Dr. Barus has. I went back to several centuries before the Christian era and brought my chart down to 1900 as he did. The chart was made on a long strip of common opaque "curtaining" and I drew lines as he did for the dates. On account of covering so many centuries I allowed but ten inches for each century and did not put in, as he has done, the half centuries. My chart extended something like twenty feet and I followed exactly the plan suggested by Dr. Barus of indicating the life of each man by a horizontal line. In my chart, however, I drew these life symbols as rectangles about two inches high and stretching right and left the proper length. Inside of this rectangle the name of the botanist was printed in capital letters. This has the advantage of avoiding any possibility of mistaking the line belonging to any particular name. After I had worked out my plan on a smaller sheet of paper it was enlarged into the chart of which I speak, and has been hanging for two years across the end of my lecture room. I keep it permanently in place, as in this way students become gradually acquainted with the general distribution of names. I am sure that Dr. Barus's plan is an admirable one, and it certainly has served a very good purpose in my lecture room.

CHARLES E. BESSEY

STATISTICS OF TELEGONY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The letter of Mr. O. F. Cook in your issue of August 20 is so characteristic of the attitude of certain biologists to biometry that perhaps you will spare me space for a brief commentary on it. Mr. Cook writes: