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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY[1]

THE industrial application of electricity for light and for power began about thirty years ago. There were then no schools or laboratories in which applied electricity was taught. The science or profession of electrical engineering did not exist. Electricity was taught as a part of the physics course in schools or colleges and, incidentally thereto, brief descriptions of its application to telegraphy were included. Electroplating, the electric arc and electromagnetism were studied chiefly from books and sometimes illustrated with such instruments and apparatus as were to be found in the apparatus collection.

When, however, the great growth or expansion began, about thirty years ago, courses in electrical engineering were gradually added in some of the schools, usually in conjunction with the teaching of physics, to which the new study was most closely allied. The physics department of Princeton under Professor Brackett was among the very earliest to provide instruction in what was in fact the incipient stage of the now highly developed and important science of applied electricity. Those in the field whose memories carry them back to that early time, will easily recall the important contributions made by Professor Brackett and his department to the development of the infant science. On this present occasion Princeton is to be congratulated on the opening of its magnificent new laboratory, the generous gift of Mr. Palmer, which assures the possibil-

[1] Address at the formal opening of the Palmer Physical Laboratory at Princeton University, October 21, 1909.