

rather than as a great scientific responsibility.  
—New York *Evening Post*.

#### THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE report of President Maclaurin, of the Institute of Technology, derives rather unusual interest as a fresh contemplation of old problems. These include the annual equation of making receipts equal expenditures, and the new questions of better salaries for instructors and a new location for the institute. Difficulty appears in keeping some of the best of the teaching force in the face of larger professional opportunities. The margin is frequently too great to be offset by the teacher's enthusiasm, and an appeal is made to the state to deal more generously with this institution. The present plant is criticized because of the noise, dirt and electrical disturbance to which it is subjected. The buildings are scattered and inconvenient and lack dignity. If a removal to some more favorable location is not soon made in ten years it will be inevitable, in the president's opinion, and the longer it is delayed the more difficult will it be to find a suitable situation.  
—The Boston *Evening Transcript*.

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Consciousness*. By HENRY RUTGERS MARSHALL, M.A., L.H.D. New York, The Macmillan Co. 1909.

The intending reader will take this book in hand with a certain feeling of satisfaction due to first impressions. As a piece of book-making it is exceedingly well put together; and the analytic table of contents shows that it is the intention of the author to treat the various problems which he chooses to include under its title in an orderly and systematic way. The promise made by these first impressions is in the main well fulfilled. Moreover, the style of the book, although it is not always clear and is in spots positively obscure, is uniformly dignified and appropriate—recognizing obligations and differing with self-restraint and sobriety, and without resort to those kaleidoscopic turns and twists of argument and tricks of rhetoric which have cost the would-be science of psychology so dearly in this country.

The author announces in the preface (p. vii) such a "restatement of psychological doctrine" as shall "bring all related psychic facts into harmony with the theory" which he has defended in some of his previous writings. With the expert student of these facts, such a statement as this is certain to create grave misgivings. For at this somewhat late day in the history of psychology, as of any other of the so-called sciences, the temptations connected with the attempt at restatement of all its facts are almost irresistible. Of these temptations the following two are chief: first, the temptation to think that one is saying something new, because one is telling the same old story in a different and not infrequently a more uncouth language; and second, the temptation to force the facts into harmony with the new theory, under cover of a difference in the language used to describe them. Let us not forget, then, that in the development of any science, *restatement* can not create any new facts or justify any new interpretation of facts already known. At best, it is only a matter of convenience in the method of arrangement and exposition. Of late in psychology, in our judgment, most similar attempts have hindered quite as much as they have helped the discovery and the elucidation of its more fundamental truths.

Mr. Marshall divides the treatment of his theme into three separate books. Of these, Book I. treats of Consciousness in General; Book II., of The General Nature of Human Presentations, and Book III., of The Self. Each of these books is again divided into parts, divisions, subdivisions, chapters and numerous short paragraphs—giving an appearance to the whole not unlike that of Spinoza's "Ethica." Thus the form of presentation is made to accord quite strictly with the plan which, as we have seen, proposes to restate all the psychic facts in terms of a new theory that shall embrace and explain them all. At this point, the devoted psychologist can scarcely refrain from the prayer: Would to heaven that the attempt might be successful!

Before examining any of the particular problems dealt with by the author, it is de-