

and engineering subjects, while they may be conscientiously carrying on scientific research in their own line, are much more likely to become broad, efficient teachers if they come more frequently in contact, in a professional way, with men who are engaged in work outside of the institutions of learning.

It is also true that the advantages are not, by any means, all one-sided, as the man in practical life, who has a problem to solve or who is working on the solution of some problem, can very frequently obtain valuable information by consultation with some man who is working along the same line in an educational institution. He may also frequently find it possible for him to work with a scientist who is well acquainted with that particular line of work, to their mutual advantage.

What can be done has been shown in one way at the University of Kansas with her industrial fellowships. This particular case may be the best possible thing for this place but, on the other hand, might prove anything but a success if undertaken at some other institution or under some other man, who did not have the personality to carry it through. Each man will have to work out the plan best suited to himself and his locality.

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#### THE REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In the September 2 number of SCIENCE is a communication signed Charles E. Slocum, in which are conveyed some expressions of Moses B. Cotsworth which suggest a method for remedying the troublesome irregularities of our present-day calendar.

Our calendar, among other heritages from our more or less remote ancestors, is characterized by incongruities that make it fit awkwardly into present-day human activities, industrial, commercial and social; and has indeed become an anachronism. The suggestion of a reformation of the calendar appears to be very timely, and the method proposed is simple and feasible, the changes indicated ap-

parently not involving any embarrassments nor confusion in the business and social world.

It is to be hoped that this suggestion will take the form of an active movement, and will be promoted before international councils.

The discussion of the calendar not unnaturally invites some reflections upon our "legal holidays," those wandering comets of our almanac, which not unfrequently drop upon us unawares, to the great disturbance of the business world.

It is not a small matter to have the complex machinery of the whole body of finance and commerce throughout the country brought to a sudden stop, with most of the functions of the federal government suspended, at irregular times and when most people are unaware of such an event. This also is in the nature of an anachronism, and out of harmony with the working of the vast elaboration of machinery of present-day activities.

This is, moreover, a growing evil, based upon a combination of sentiment and politics, and legislators seem disposed to add a new "legal holiday" to the growing list on small provocation, in commemoration of some conspicuous person or political event in the country's history, apparently without consideration of the effect upon the business world.

A simple remedy would seem to be available for this evil also.

There are, it may be said, four cardinal holidays in our calendar, that have so grown into our system by habit of thought as not to constitute a disturbing element in the current affairs of the people, as all are thoroughly familiar with the times of their recurrence. These are New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas. Other than these we have fifty-two Sundays in the year, which together would seem to afford ample time for rest and recreation.

The suggestion of a remedy for the evil of irregular "legal holidays" is, that they shall all be made to fall on Sundays instead of on week days.

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