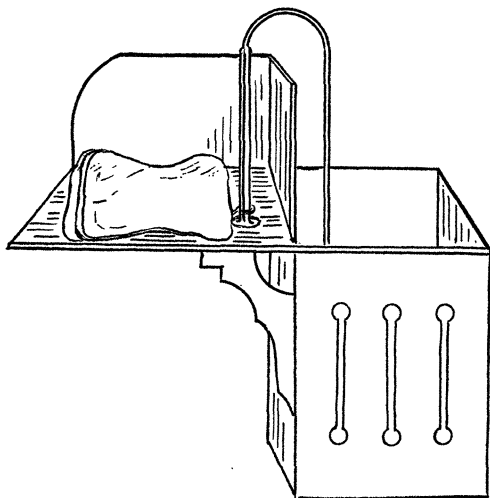


which this rod passes, so that when a towel has been used it is slipped over the rod and



allowed to drop into the basket. This rod is ordinarily held in place by a nut, but it might be provided with a lock. It would thus be impossible to remove the towels by any one not provided with a key without tearing them.

This rack has been used at the university, in its various toilet rooms, for some months with much satisfaction.

W. D. FROST

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

QUOTATIONS

THOUGHT-TRANSFERENCE

A CURIOUS offer, or challenge, has been appearing recently in our columns. An unnamed inquirer asks for "satisfactory proofs of so-called thought-transference"; and, as such proofs have not been forthcoming in response to applications to "the leading authorities and writers of repute on the subject," a reward of £1,000 is now offered to any one who will furnish them. We understand those who use the expression "thought-transference" to mean by it that, under conditions at present undetermined, the physical changes underlying the thought processes of a human brain may be brought into such relations with some unknown medium of communication as

to be conducted through its agency to another human brain, and to produce in the latter changes, and consequently thoughts, analogous to or identical with those preexisting in the former; the process being somewhat analogous to the communication of Hertzian waves from their source to a suitable receiver at a distance. The foundations of any such belief must manifestly rest upon the instances in which it is said that human beings, separated by distance, have been simultaneously the subjects of thought impressions of a similar or identical character, on matters important or interesting to both; and it is equally manifest that no "proof" of "transference" in such cases could possibly be given. The instances, or supposed instances, have never been examined with sufficient care by competent persons to exclude the innumerable possibilities of coincidence, and it is even doubtful whether any care which could be taken, after the alleged event, would be sufficient for the purpose, or could avoid the operation of "the myriad shafts of chance." The only conclusive proof would be by the intentional reproduction of the occurrence; and in order to accomplish this it would first be necessary to determine with scientific precision what were the conditions of success. If there can be a transference of the kind alleged, it must occur as a result of a state of things which, if its nature were precisely known, could be reproduced with certainty; but which, so long as it is uncertain or undefined must continue to elude observation and to baffle experiment. If "proof" be desired, it should be sought by endeavors to reproduce in a physical laboratory the circumstances which have given rise to the stories about thought-transference.—The London Times.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Quantitative Mineralogical and Chemical Composition of Granites and Gneisses.
By Professor T. TCHIRWINSKY. Moscow.
1911. 8vo. Pp. vii + 659, 4 plates.

An important work by Professor T. Tchirwinsky on the quantitative chemical and