

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1911

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION AND
UNIVERSITY IDEALS

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THE development of our American universities is seriously handicapped by the present system of administration. A spirit of chauvinism intolerant of adverse criticism from outsiders, even when directed against obvious defects, is often a prominent factor in determining as well as in limiting the functions of the entire educational system now operative in colleges and universities which remain private corporations. This particular defect is more apparent in our older universities where the bonds of union between alma mater and alumni, which during the early period of development were essential to the life of our colleges, now threaten unless modified and readjusted to impair the growth and vitality of these institutions. Wherever the spirit of progress is felt, the problem of the proper readjustment of the administrative forces of our universities so as to make the most effective use of available resources is, for the moment, a more important question than providing for an increase of revenue. It is not difficult to point out more than one concrete example of the confusion that exists in regard to the relationships of the various departments of administration and the unfortunate state of anarchy sure to arise when a board of trustees whose members are uninformed as to the general progress made in the development of universities suddenly reassumes the powers which through their inertia had temporarily been relegated to president and deans. The results of this unfortunate state of affairs have been that fruitless efforts are made to solve problems requiring the training and special knowledge