

SCIENCE

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A NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

<i>A National University:</i> WILLET M. HAYS ..	723
<i>Undergraduate Research Work in Medical Schools:</i> CECIL K. DRINKER	729
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	738
<i>University and Educational News</i>	743
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Radiotelegraphic Achievements by the Poul- sen System:</i> ROBERT ANDERSON. <i>Pictures of Psychologists:</i> PROFESSOR E. A. KIRK- PATRICK	743
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Comstock's Spider Book:</i> PROFESSOR W. M. WHEELER. <i>The Voyage of the Belgica:</i> DR. WM. H. DALL. <i>Kellogg's Beyond War:</i> PROFESSOR WM. E. KELLICOTT	745
<i>Botanical Notes:—</i>	
<i>The Brussels Code; Crown Gall and Can- cer:</i> PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY	747
<i>The Analysis of Natural Selection:</i> DR. ROS- WELL H. JOHNSON	750
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>Botanical Evidence of the Age of certain Ox-bow Lakes:</i> ROLAND M. HARPER. <i>On Comparing Ammonifying Coefficients of Different Soils:</i> CHARLES B. LIPMAN	760

THE addresses by Presidents Van Hise and James, published in the August 16 issue of SCIENCE, splendidly set forth the facilities in Washington for advanced study and the reasons for a really national university. The administrative and physical organization, and also the national purposes of the proposed institution, need broad discussion.

Though its promoters might conceive the projected institution as snugly centered in a building beside or as a part of the Bureau of Education, with students directed to attend lectures in one room in each of a few scores of governmental bureaus, and working in the bureau laboratories under the seasoned government scientists, that could not be more than its preliminary stage. The mere name, "University of the United States," backed by the reputation of the scientific bureaus and libraries of Washington, would soon bring such a flood of American and foreign students that the snug executive office would be overwhelmed and the bureaus would be in revolt.

A national university at Washington must be a physical university, with existing bureaus only as adjuncts. History will prove the statement that bureau scientists and equipment can be used only incidentally. Men in charge of research and administrative science, applied to the increasing of production, to policing under pure food inspection or quarantine and other laws, to surveying natural resources, to administering public forest and other business, to promoting the public health, and even to administering educational and gen-