versity to have gained countless student-hours and experiment-units and to have lost what is highest and best in it?

* * * * * *

President Lowell has sent to the members of the Harvard faculty a statement which amounts to something like a repudiation of the preposterous circular of inquiry issued several days ago in the name of the assistant controller of the university. A more complete repudiation would have been more welcome, but it should be safe to assume that Dr. Lowell's statement that "answers were intended to be wholly voluntary" and that "the recent circular was issued under a misunderstanding" means the end of this folly. The episode is one that Harvard should be glad to forget, except in so far as it drew out—as it did, though we are not informed as to what extent—threats of resignation on the part of men who had a proper conception of the professor's calling. It is humiliating to think that such a protest should have been made necessary at our country's most distinguished seat of learning; but as it has happened, we trust that the feeling of self-respecting professors has been made so manifest as to preclude the possibility of any resurrection of the foolish scheme.—New York *Evening Post.*

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Methods in Chemical Analysis Originated or Developed in the Kent Chemical Laboratory of Yale University. Compiled by Frank Austin Gooch, Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Kent Chemical Laboratory in Yale University. 1912. New York, John Wiley & Sons; London, Chapman & Hall, Ltd. Pp. xii + 536. Price $4 net.

In his prefatory note the author states that "the object of this volume is to present the principal results reached by workers in the Kent Chemical Laboratory of Yale University in the investigation and development of methods in chemical analysis." As a rule, only those procedures are included which have been definitely proven to be useful, and the experimental data given are those immediately related to the facts stated. Copious references to original papers render further information regarding details, discussions and variations of procedure easily accessible if library facilities are available.

The subject matter is divided into twelve chapters, the first of which deals with "Appliances and General Procedure," the second with "The Alkali Metals," the third with the copper group, and so on, following the groups in the order of increasing valence across the periodic table.

The book is in no sense a text-book, nor is it of the character of a work for general reference with respect to methods of chemical analysis. It is, rather, a bringing together of abstracts of papers, all emanating from this laboratory so well and widely known for its contributions to chemical literature in this important field, but published in many journals throughout a long series of years. As such, it is a most remarkable compilation and can not fail to be of service to those in search of reliable analytical procedures, although its usefulness will be more like that of a "Beilstein" than that of a "Fresenius."

If it is recalled that the material is presented in concise, abstract form and yet occupies more than five hundred pages, it will be evident that the volume constitutes a striking tribute to the versatility and activity of Professor Gooch and his associates and a record which it would be exceedingly difficult for any other laboratory to parallel. The compilation is that of one who is a master in the art of clear, accurate and concise statement, but the compiler has characteristically repressed the evidences of his own share in the many investigations which made this volume possible. It is a book which should do much to uphold the "dignity of analytical chemistry," so warmly defended by the late Dr. C. B. Dudley, and one which may well incite others to renewed endeavor in this fundamental field of chemical science—a field which some have, of late, tended to regard as of inferior importance, but which happily shows signs of again asserting its claims to a fair share of recognition.

H. P. Talbot