

adoption, so far from evidencing its intrinsic value and probable permanence, exemplifies the survival of simian proclivities in the human race, and swells the category of peculiar "college customs" which, like the Indian of the traditional cowboy, are good only after they are dead.

It may be urged that educators constitute a "standing army" in conflict with ignorance. But there is no real analogy between their duties and those of soldiers, firemen and police.<sup>1</sup> Farmers combat the hunger of the community; physicians, disease; lawyers, misapprehension, injustice and crime; clergymen, the ape, bull and tiger in man; and all good citizens are in constant warfare with the undesirable elements of society; but these groups do not proclaim themselves by needless, conspicuous and costly Pharisaic habiliments.

According to the official pamphlet named above the prices of the "hooded gown" for the master's degree range from \$35 to \$85; those for the doctorate, \$10 more. For some classes such an outlay for garments to be worn upon comparatively infrequent occasions might not be excessive. But, until recently, most college professors, excepting such as had independent means or no families, were pleading with reason and commonly in vain for compensation that might enable them to provide for a less productive period of life. Now that the specter of retirement-penury has been exorcised by the bounty of Andrew Carnegie is it any the more becoming in his beneficiaries to indulge in a costly revival of medieval flummery?<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>It is not denied that occasions might arise when uniforms indicative of ordained pedagogic authority might prove useful in quelling disorder and averting destruction of property as, *e. g.*, at the recently reported *ante factum* football demonstration in the dining hall of a great university; the writer believes, however, that in all such cases a well-disciplined and fully supported fire department would act more appropriately and effectively.

<sup>2</sup>A somewhat comparable condition confronts former officers of the United States Volunteer Army in respect to membership in the "Military Order of the Loyal Legion." The initiation fee

The foregoing considerations are submitted in the hope that reflection upon them may lead some, especially among the younger scientists, to resist the temptation to "follow the fashion." They would better imitate the elder Agassiz; he received many foreign decorations; yet I never saw them displayed or witnessed in his demeanor or dress any feature suggesting a distinction between himself and the average American citizen.

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THE LATE DR. EDWIN TAUSCH

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Permit me to call attention to a sad case of the widow and children of a man eminent in science—a case well worthy of charitable help from those who are able or disposed to give. Dr. Edwin Tausch, a young German, graduate in psychology from one of the German universities, was professor in Ohio University at Athens, and afterwards because of failing health, accepted the chair of psychology and philosophy in Willamette University, Salem, Oregon, but was obliged to give up this work on account of heart troubles, and finally during the past is \$35 and the annual dues for residents, \$12. Unlike retired officers of the regular army volunteer officers (unless more or less disabled by wounds or disease) receive from the government only a moderate pension proportionate to their age and length of service. Even this is of real help to many. Probably others besides the writer feel that the essential requirements and objects of the "Loyal Legion," viz., a modest badge, clerical service, and aid to the needy, might be provided for at a far less initial and yearly expenditure, and that conformity to the present scale is burdensome for many and unbecoming the beneficiaries of the nation. I resist the temptation to animadvert upon the showy, complex and cumbersome dress uniform and equipment of army officers as incongruous with the ideal of the professional soldier as a component of an efficient fighting machine.

summer died, leaving a wife and two children almost penniless in Germany. It is almost impossible for Mrs. Tausch to support herself and her children in that country and unless she can do so the children will be placed in an orphanage. It is her wish to find means for herself and her children to return to America where the children were born and where she herself would be able to find work as a teacher. In Germany "hundreds like herself are already waiting for a position wherever there is an opening." Dr. Tausch published a number of valuable papers, notably a sympathetic review of Dr. James's "Pragmatism." A study of the psychology of Tolstoy is still unpublished, as well as an extensive volume on pragmatic philosophy. Should any one feel like granting aid to the widow of this gifted but unfortunate scholar money may be sent through the writer or to Madam Elizabeth Tausch, care Frau von Wissman Warkotsch Kreis, Strehlen, Schlesien, Germany.

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#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*The Humble-Bee, its Life History and How to Domesticate it, with Descriptions of All the British Species of Bombus and Psithyrus.* By F. W. L. SLADEN. London, Macmillan & Company, Limited. 1912. Pp. xiii + 283; 6 plates and 33 text figures. \$1.50 net.

This account of the life-history of the humble-bee will be more than welcome to every entomologist and student of animal behavior, not only because it is written by an eminent authority on the honey-bee, but because it is one of those rare nature books that are the mature fruit of a life-long interest and occupation. The author is so intimately acquainted with every detail in the daily and seasonal life of the British humble-bees and its parasites, and handles his subject in such a clever and fascinating manner, that one may fail to appreciate the great amount of patient observation and toilsome experimentation on which his statements are based. With true British independence he refrains from annoy-

ing and confusing the reader with citations of the large and scattered literature of the subject. Almost the only continental work he cites on the habits of the humble-bee is the classic memoir of Hoffer, "Die Hummeln Steiermarks," published thirty years ago (1882). The more recent work of Wladimir Wagner, "Psychobiologische Untersuchungen an Hummeln mit Bezugnahme auf die Frage der Geselligkeit im Tierreiche," *Zoologica*, Heft 46, I. and II., 1906 and 1907, is not even mentioned, and one familiar with this work may be pardoned if he secretly hopes that Sladen has never seen it, not because it is devoid of considerable merit, but because its spirit gives one reason to suspect that Sladen might have become sophisticated by its perusal. There is, indeed, no better way of appreciating the English author's work than by following it with a perusal of Wagner. Both authors have independently discovered and described a number of important peculiarities in humble-bee life that were unknown to Hoffer, but how different is the view-point from which their observations are made! In Sladen's work the humble-bee is the heroine of the story. She moves before us in all the glory of her regal, velvety attire, with the joyous or apprehensive hum of incessant, arduous labor and self-sacrificing motherhood. In Wagner's account it is Wladimir Wagner who occupies the foreground as the somewhat bumptious scientist who looks at the humble-bee, makes an observation, forthwith settles its connection with some lop-sided hypothesis, incidentally belabors a few contrary-minded, or bestows his approval on a few like-minded students of animal behavior, and then repeats the process. Sladen, on the other hand, writes with charming, sympathetic insight, and utterly unmindful of committing one of the most deadly sins that it is possible for a modern student of animal behavior to commit, pens such sentences as the following, in which the italics are the reviewer's: "The queen's *intelligence* is seen at its best while she is thus *caring* for her brood, and her *devotion* to it, and her *alertness* on the slightest approach of danger, are most interesting to witness. She shows