

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,  
March 17, 1913.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY  
OF SCIENCES:

Having been officially notified of your request as adopted by resolution at the stated meeting of the academy on March 3, that Mr. L. M. Loomis be reappointed curator of the department of ornithology at the compensation which is customary for curators devoting full time to the affairs of their departments, your council desires to assure you that this request is receiving their earnest and most serious consideration.

For the council,  
C. E. GRUNSKY,  
*President*  
J. W. HOBSON,  
*Secretary*

At the stated meeting of April 7 the council reported to the academy that it had adopted the following resolution:

Having under consideration the request of the academy that the council reappoint Mr. Loomis curator of the department of ornithology for the current year, be it

*Resolved*, that it is the sense of the council that such reappointment would not be for the best interests of the academy.

Upon presentation of this report from the council, the following resolution was moved and was adopted by the academy:

The academy condemns and disavows the refusal of its council to reappoint L. M. Loomis curator of ornithology, without any charge having been brought against him after eighteen years of faithful and efficient service, as an act of unfairness, and as bringing reproach on the name and equity of the academy.

A. L. KROEBER

#### UNIVERSITY LIFE IN IDAHO

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In reply to Professor Kellogg's letter in the issue of SCIENCE, May 16, 1913, regarding the reported dismissal of Professor Aldrich, of the University of Idaho, I may say that I have not made any recommendation regarding Professor Aldrich's tenure of office to the board of regents, nor to any member of the board—nor have I been asked to do so. I am informed that the action

of the board was undertaken on its own responsibility and in fulfilment of its public trust, and the action was confirmed by the new board of education organized for all of the educational institutions of Idaho. I had no part in either proceeding. Accordingly, I am not entitled to share in either the credit or the criticism of the result. The rest of Professor Kellogg's letter is likewise unsupported in fact.

JAMES A. MACLEAN,  
*President, University of Manitoba*

#### THE COTTRELL PROCESS FOR DEPOSITING DUST AND SMOKE

MR. LINN BRADLEY, of the Research Corporation, recently gave a lecture on the Cottrell Process<sup>1</sup> before the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. It was my privilege to help Mr. Bradley in his experimental demonstration of the process, and I suggested to Mr. Bradley a modification which proved to be very satisfactory for the lecture table.

A glass tube two inches in diameter and four or five feet long is supported in a horizontal position with a heavy wire or metal rod lying along the bottom of the tube and connected to one terminal of a small Holtz machine. A very fine wire is stretched through the tube and supported on two glass columns beyond the ends of the tube, and this fine wire is connected to the other terminal of the electric machine. The best procedure is to keep the machine running continuously with its terminals short-circuited. Then the tube is filled with any kind of smoke, the short circuit is quickly removed, and the smoke is seen to be deposited very quickly indeed.

Those who are not familiar with the process may be interested to know the action which takes place, which is as follows: The voltage between the fine wire and the heavy wire or rod is sufficient to cause a continuous corona

<sup>1</sup>The Cottrell process has been placed in the hands of the Research Corporation of New York City; any proceeds which may come from the practical use of the process are to go to the Smithsonian Institution of Washington.