

# SCIENCE

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## CONTENTS

<i>The Mutual Relations of Medical Progress and the Physician:</i> PROFESSOR HENRY H. DONALDSON .....	101
<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:—</i>	
<i>A National University based on National Ideals:</i> H. K. BUSH-BROWN .....	109
<i>The Scientific Study of the College Student:</i> CHARLES WHITING WILLIAMS .....	114
<i>The American Mine Safety Association</i> .....	120
<i>The Crocker Land Expedition</i> .....	1 0
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	121
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	125
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Color Correlation in Garden Beans:</i> DR. J. K. SHAW. <i>A New Method for Labeling Microscopic Slides:</i> ZAE NORTHRUP. <i>The Metric System:</i> A. F. GILMAN. <i>The Yellowstone Park:</i> PROFESSOR W. S. FRANKLIN	126
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions:</i> PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY. <i>Ingersoll and Zobel on the Mathematical Theory of Heat Conduction:</i> C. P. RANDOLPH .....	129
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>The Negative Phototropism of Diaptomus through the Agency of Caffein, Strychnin and Atropin:</i> PROFESSOR A. R. MOORE. <i>The Powdery Scab of Potato:</i> I. E. MELHUS. <i>A New Section South from Des Moines, Iowa:</i> JOHN L. TILTON .....	131
<i>The American Association of Museums:</i> DR. PAUL M. REA .....	135

## THE MUTUAL RELATIONS OF MEDICAL PROGRESS AND THE PHYSICIAN<sup>1</sup>

SOME students of literature tell us that there are but seven different stories in the world. I should be inclined to add that there were but three different addresses for an occasion like the present.

Thus it is possible to select a chapter in medical history and revive the past; or discuss some striking achievement of the day and illuminate the present; or finally, to choose for consideration problems, the solutions for which are still in the making, and thus attempt to forecast and to mould the future.

It is from these problems that I have made a selection for this occasion and I purpose to speak on the mutual relations of medical progress and the physician—for you are physicians—in the nascent state, to be sure—but like the freshly liberated hydrogen to which the adjective is most often applied—capable of vigorous activity.

To say anything really new to you upon the topic here set down would be most difficult. We are all in the position of the old philologist who, when asked to explain why he gave no lectures, replied that he had not yet been able to get together a sufficient quantity of *new* facts to fill an hour. For the most part we who speak are obliged to overlook this unpleasant circumstance and endeavor to present familiar ideas in a new form—trusting by a happy presentation to drive them home.

To be sure, all of us are wonderfully pro-

<sup>1</sup> Address given at the eighty-fourth annual commencement of the St. Louis University School of Medicine, June 5, 1913.