

the adjective *fungous* may have been intended, with the *o* accidentally omitted. Or could it be that the much abused word *fungoid* would have met the author's requirement? The use of words from the sciences demands caution from the general writer, but in a scientific journal there should be no lapse, certainly none from the pen of a critic. The word *fungus* with its derivatives is too often misused.

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QUOTATIONS

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FROM TWO POINTS OF VIEW

THE finest thing which civilization has yet produced is a great American university upon a private foundation. A company of gentlemen associate themselves and assume the obligation of providing the means for, and the organization of, an institution for the highest culture, not only without any pecuniary compensation to themselves, but giving freely of their time, effort and substance, and securing, in their aid, the countenance and contributions of their friends and fellow citizens, and a body of scholars, selected by this original association, who, sacrificing at the outset the prospect of worldly gain, devote themselves zealously and enthusiastically to the discovery of truth and its dissemination and to the making of character—such, in brief outline, is this great product of human evolution. No other nation on the earth has brought the like of it forth. It is the peculiar offspring of American conscience and American liberty. To have had an honorable part in the creation of such an institution is a privilege of the highest order and obligates the happy participant to render to his fellow-men an account of his experiences.—Dean John W. Burgess in the *Columbia University Quarterly* for September.

IN America there are three sexes—men, women and professors. It is the saying of European scholars looking from those self-governing democracies, their universities,

upon ours. They see ours ruled without the consent of the governed through presidential autocrats by boards of non-scholar trustees—not a part of the world of learning, but superimposed upon it. The American professor has the status of an employee subject to dismissal without trial by men not his colleagues.

The universities of Germany, the older universities of England and Scotland respect and trust and leave free the individual. Their organization gives them the right to regard themselves as provinces of the republic of letters. The overlorded universities of America have no such right.

For a couple of centuries American professors have submitted to a system which gives most of them little control over their own lives, small power to defend any truth which has powerful enemies, no part in shaping the policies of the institutions in which they teach. Hence the pitiable figure of the American scholar to whom Emerson, Emersonically oblivious of such little matters as despotic college government, held up a high ideal of independent manhood.

The position of her scholars under the thumb of business men and capitalists who control the university purse is enough to account for the fact that America is intellectually second rate. Unless content to remain so Americans have got to think down to bed-rock about university government and do what thought demands.

Feeling that something is wrong, we have begun to examine the life of our universities, but no general attention has centered as yet upon their inherited, undemocratic system of control which is bearing the fruit of timidity and subservience among those twenty-three thousand men and five thousand women whose social function is to create and transmit American thought.—George Cram in the *Forum* for October.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Determination of Time, Longitude, Latitude and Azimuth. Fifth Edition. By WILLIAM BOWIE. Special Publication No. 14, U. S.