

SCIENCE

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CONTENTS

<i>Before and After Lister</i> : DR. W. W. KEEN ..	845
<i>Lady Huggins</i> : PROFESSOR SARAH F. WHITING.	853
<i>The University of Minnesota and the Mayo Foundation</i>	855
<i>Conditions at the University of Utah</i>	856
<i>The Pacific Division of the American Association</i>	857
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	857
<i>University and Educational News</i>	862
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>Complexity of the Alexandrian Series</i> : CHARLES KEYES. <i>Alabama Argillacea in</i> <i>Minnesota</i> : WILLIAM MOORE. <i>Chemihy-</i> <i>drometry</i> : B. F. GROAT. <i>Eye Shades for</i> <i>Microscopical Work</i> : X	863
<i>Scientific Books</i> :—	
<i>Huntington on the Climatic Factor as Il-</i> <i>lustrated in Arid North America</i> : PRO-	
FESSOR FRANCIS E. LLOYD	864
<i>The Proceedings of the National Academy of</i> <i>Sciences</i> : PROFESSOR EDWIN BIDWELL	
WILSON	868
<i>Special Articles</i> :—	
<i>A Modification of the Bellani Porous Plate</i> <i>Atmometer</i> : PROFESSOR BURTON E. LIVING-	
STON. <i>The Effect of Temperature on the</i> <i>Life Cycle of Musca domestica and Culex</i> <i>pipiens</i> : S. D. KRAMER	872
<i>Societies and Academies</i> :—	
<i>The Biological Society of Washington</i> : M.	
W. LYON, JR. <i>The Botanical Society of</i> <i>Washington</i> : DR. PERLEY SPAULDING. <i>The</i> <i>Anthropological Society of Washington</i> : DR.	
DANIEL FOLKMAR. <i>The Indiana Academy</i> <i>of Sciences</i> : F. B. WADE. <i>The New Or-</i> <i>leans Academy of Sciences</i> : PROFESSOR R.	
S. COCKS. <i>The American Philosophical So-</i> <i>ciet</i>	877

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

BEFORE AND AFTER LISTER¹

LECTURE I, "BEFORE LISTER"

ON July 1, 1861, I entered the service of the State of Massachusetts as assistant surgeon of the Fifth Massachusetts, and on July 4 was sworn into the service of the United States in the shadow of yonder capitol. On August 1 I was honorably discharged and resumed my medical studies at the Jefferson Medical College. Strange as it now seems, when assistant surgeon I was not yet a graduate in medicine. As an evidence of the loose way in which medical and military matters were then conducted, I was actually appointed without any examination whatever.

After graduating in March, 1862, I again entered the service in May, after an examination, and was ordered to the Eckington Hospital in the then outskirts of Washington. Shortly afterwards I was ordered to fit up two churches as hospitals and to have them ready in five days. It was 5 P.M. on a Saturday afternoon.

People sometimes imagine that a practising physician can be transformed into an army surgeon merely by putting a uniform on him. I was not lacking in ordinary intelligence and was willing to work, but I was utterly without training. To get those two churches ready as hospitals I had to have beds, mattresses, sheets, pillow-cases, chairs, tables, kitchen utensils, knives, forks, spoons, peppers and salts, all sorts of crockery and other necessities for a dining-room, all the drugs, appliances and instruments needed for two hundred sick and wounded men; I needed orderlies, cooks and the endless odds and ends of things which go to make up a well-organized hospital. I did not know how to get a single one of these requisites. As to drugs, I did not know whether

¹ Two lectures before the U. S. Army Medical School, Washington, D. C., April 27 and 28, 1915.