

Perry Avery Bond: "4-nitro-5-methyl-2-sulphobenzoic Acid and some of its Derivatives."

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Frederic Hastings Smyth: "The Potential of the Bismuth Electrode and of Sodium Lead Compounds in Liquid Ammonia Solutions."

Louis Weisberg: "The Equilibrium of the Reaction between Carbon and Ammonia at High Temperatures; a Study of the Free Energy of Dilution of Hydrochloric Acid."

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Victor Clyde Edwards: "1-, 4-, 5-, 6-tetrahydroxynaphthalene. I. A New Case of Desmotropy. II. A Series of Bromine Derivatives."

William Lewis Jeffries: "The Function of 'Cooking' Fossil Resins in Varnish Manufacture."

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Elton Marion Hogg: "Studies on the Passive State of Iron."

Roland Neal: "Colloidal Solutions of Copper Sulphide."

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Eula Adeline Weeks: "A Symmetrical Generalization of the Theory of Functions."

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Siegel Buckborough: "The Structure of Maltose and its Oxidation Products with Alkaline Peroxide of Hydrogen."

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

John Bernard Parker: "A Review of North American Bombicini."

TULANE UNIVERSITY

Willard Van Orsdel King: "The Mosquitoes of New Orleans and Vicinity."

THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

THE following resolution was offered by Mr. Wharton Barker at the October meeting of the board of trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, and was unanimously adopted:

Because a university has three duties to perform:

1. To aid students to acquire knowledge of information heretofore gathered.

2. To make investigation in every department of human knowledge without restriction.

3. To cause publication of the result of this investigation both within and without the university:

Resolved, That the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania adopt and declare as an adequate expression of their views and purpose the statement of Thomas H. Huxley upon his installation as rector of Aberdeen University in 1874:

"Universities should be places in which thought is free from all fetters, and in which all sources of knowledge and all aids of learning should be accessible to all comers, without distinction of creed or country, riches or poverty."

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Effingham B. Morris, and was unanimously adopted:

In order to avoid misunderstanding of the position of the university toward freedom of academic opinions, speech, teachings and public discussions, by members of its faculties, this minute is entered upon the records of the board of trustees.

Under the original charter and statutes of the university, the trustees are charged with the duty and responsibility of selecting and appointing fit persons as professors to instruct students. Because of the decision of the board at its last meeting not to renew Dr. Scott Nearing's contract of employment as an assistant professor in the Wharton School—which expired by its terms at the end of the academic year—an assumption has been made and circulated that this action indicated a policy to restrict or to prevent free academic discussion. This belief is unwarranted. Indeed nothing could be further from the truth.

The trustees have not only always recognized fully the right of members of the teaching staff to hold and to give proper expression to individual views upon all questions, but there is not now and never will be the slightest wish on the part of the board or of a single one of the trustees to restrict the broadest latitude of opinions, research and discussion. When individual opinions of members of the teaching staff are expressed in a proper manner, upon proper occasions, and with proper respect for the dignity of their relationship to the university, and their consequent responsibility to the institution, such opinions and utterances are welcomed as indicative of progressive growth—no matter how divergent they may be from current or general beliefs.

It is not only not possible, but most undesirable, for any board of trustees to lay down definite

rules for guidance of members of any teaching staff. It would be a sad commentary upon the noble profession of teaching if any university should think a necessity existed to attempt to do so. If a teacher's own conception of the extent of his responsibility to young students, and his own realization of the importance given to his words by the mere fact that the university has commissioned and trusted him to teach, and has conferred upon him the right to use her name in addressing either students or the public, is not sufficient of itself to impose upon him discretion, dignity, fairness, truth, courtesy, sober-mindedness and consideration for differences of opinion, then manifestly any other form of restraint will be futile.

In order to discharge the duty laid upon the board by the charter, the trustees are required to observe and determine the qualifications of prospective teachers before appointing them as professors. The usual routine is an engagement as an instructor, an advance to an assistant professorship, followed—if justified—by appointment as professor. Dr. Nearing followed this usual course. He was found to have an attractive personality and many good qualities as a teacher. During the entire period of the few years in which he was connected with the university, however, his efforts—although doubtless perfectly sincere—were so constantly and continuously misunderstood by the public and by many parents of students, that much to the regret of the trustees they felt unable to give him the promotion to a professorship which he would otherwise have obtained. The termination of his temporary engagement was therefore absolutely in the line of the duty laid upon the trustees by the charter and in justice to Dr. Nearing himself, who was thus free to employ his talents in fields not circumscribed by either requests or promises to avoid strife and turmoil, which are neither necessary nor desirable accompaniments of the objects for which young men are sent to college by their parents.

When an individual teacher's methods, language and temperament provoke continued and widespread criticism alike from parents of students and from the general public who know him only by his public utterances, the freedom of choice in selection of some other person is a right equally as inherent in the board of trustees legally charged with its exercise by the charter, as is the right of freedom of opinion and thought, and teaching in the faculties. And this duty must be exercised for the good of the university as a whole.

The responsibilities of the governing body of any

university as laid down in its charter are not confined to the care of its financial and material necessities. A selection or choice of an individual teacher is in itself no possible foundation for a just charge of restriction of academic freedom of speech, and is, of course, no indication whatever of a purpose to effect changes in the present teaching staff.

An expression of its views on this subject made by the board in a somewhat lighter vein some months ago—which it was hoped and supposed was all that would be necessary—is now reaffirmed. It is accordingly again inserted in the minutes, and in connection with this statement indicates the cordial feelings of friendship, admiration and respect felt by the trustees as a body and individually for the members of the faculties of the University of Pennsylvania, upon whose untiring and efficient labors the welfare of the institution depends.

Adopted by the board, 1913, and now reaffirmed:

"In all universities professors habitually express themselves freely upon questions which interest or divide the community. It could never seriously be suggested in any college or university in this country to stifle or control freedom of thought or expression by professors. In a large teaching staff of several hundred men, such as exists at the University of Pennsylvania, occasional unwise utterances are, of course, inevitable, but they do little harm.

"It is natural for some of the younger teachers to take themselves and their opinions upon current social or economic questions more seriously than is warranted by the extent of their practical experience. It is only the passage of years which leads discreet professors, as well as other workers in the world, to be tolerant of the opinions of other students of life as it exists.

"Infallible wisdom can not be expected to hover continuously over the chairs of all professors, any more than over all board rooms of trustees, or over all newspaper or any other offices. Differences of opinion must always exist. But if sanity and good temper and sober-mindedness are kept in view by all persons concerned—trustees, professors, students and public—there will seldom be any occasion for criticism, and none at all for an outcry on behalf of liberty of opinion and freedom of speech at the University of Pennsylvania."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

As a memorial to the late Charles E. Bessey, the new biological laboratory, about to