

# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1916

## CONTENTS

<i>Scientific Truth and the Scientific Spirit: PROFESSOR A. B. MACALLUM .....</i>	439
<i>Eugene Woldemar Hilgard, a Biographical Sketch: PROFESSOR E. J. WICKSON .....</i>	447
<i>The Scientific Work of Eugene Woldemar Hilgard: PROFESSOR R. H. LOUGHRIDGE ....</i>	450
<i>The Industrial Fellowships of the Mellon Institute: DR. RAYMOND F. BACON .....</i>	453
<i>The New Jersey Mosquito Association .....</i>	456
<i>Report of the Pacific Coast Subcommittee of the Committee of One Hundred on Research.</i>	457
<i>Scientific Notes and News .....</i>	458
<i>University and Educational News .....</i>	461
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Did Spencer anticipate Darwin? PROFESSOR I. W. HOWERTH. The Atomic Weight of Radium Emanation: S. C. LIND. The Bruce Medal: ALLEN H. BABCOCK. A Cheap Rock Polishing Machine: LANCASTER D. BURLING. The Smithsonian Physical Tables: DR. C. D. WALCOTT .....</i>	462
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Kanitz's Temperatur und Lebensvorgänge: E. NEWTON HARVEY. Branner's Geologia Elementar: PROFESSOR J. B. WOODWORTH. Teele on Irrigation in the United States: PRESIDENT JOHN A. WIDTSOE.....</i>	466
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>On the Physical Chemistry of Emulsions: PROFESSOR MARTIN H. FISCHER and MARIAN O. HOOKER. Gravitation and Electrical Action: PROFESSOR FRANCIS E. NIPHER .....</i>	468
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>The American Mathematical Society: PROFESSOR F. N. COLE. The Biological Society of Washington: DR. M. W. LYON, JR. ....</i>	473

## SCIENTIFIC TRUTH AND THE SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT<sup>1</sup>

IN appearing before you this evening in my present rôle I can not but recall an incident of fifty-five years ago, which often recurs to my mind when I think of the events of to-day.

The trustees of the Smithsonian Institution in 1861 were preparing their programme for the year, and in this programme were courses of lectures to be given to the public on a series of selected topics. Their intention was announced and they were importuned to devote those lectures to what was at that time in everybody's mind. It was the first year of your great war of the Secession. I say your war, but I might, with some justification, have called it our war, for there fought in the ranks of the armies of the North 68,000 British citizens, of whom 45,000 were Canadians, and of the latter 15,000 lost their lives. There were even then stop-the-war people, prototypes of the Fords, the Akeds, the Jane Addamses and the Lloyd Joneses of to-day, futile, mole-visioned and cloister-minded, who imagined that the great conflict could be prevented by talking and they wished to avail themselves of the opportunity the lectures might present of showing how it could be done.

The trustees apparently wished to be neutral, perhaps they were uncertain what the upshot of the conflict was going to be, and this may have helped them to decide, as they did, that all war topics should be

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

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