

SCIENCE

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RESEARCH¹

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THE university is the natural home for research. The development of research institutes, except of those that have been built up around a great genius, and during the period of the active life of such a man, is apt, in the long run, to be more of a menace than help to the work of investigation. In a way the establishment of these institutes is a measure of university inefficiency. They mean that the universities have failed to rise to their full possibilities as centers of mental activity.

Research institutes lack the current of successive generations of students from which to pick out the right minds and to draw new blood. They do not feel the internal heave and struggle, the pressure that comes from association with the great turbulent mental forces that accompany youth. There is too much pressure for evident results, too much discipline of research minds to achieve a big effect. Just at the period when those who have the proper training and ability and the love for investigation that must go with success in discovering new things, many of the workers in research institutes and departments are compelled to work on the problems of some one else. This is valuable and satisfactory up to a certain point, but beyond that it means sterilization of the best that is in the men; it means putting aside their own projects, perhaps permanently. It is a serious thing for any one full of expanding ideas to be made a "scientific bootblack."

The university, if manned as it should

¹ Address before the Society of Sigma Xi at Stanford University, May 8, 1916.