

concerned only with matters as they stand. Some of the conditions of which we complain are accidental and deplored as much by the administrative officers who happen to be in charge as by the scientific workers in the laboratories. Others are the result of a more or less wholesale desire to exploit a situation which enjoys large appropriations of public funds. This is the element that must be sloughed off at all cost.

The public who is to be served and who pays the bills will ultimately clean the stables, if only the scientists and the institutions who have permanent reputations to defend and who outlive successive generations of appointed overseers will be true to their responsibilities and insist upon working conditions favorable to reasonable results.

No other branch of science is so richly endowed as is agriculture; no other promises such important results; no other has so large an army of men faithful to their duties; no other so enjoys the confidence of the public. The question is, shall agricultural science with all these advantages weighed against the disadvantages be stronger or weaker than other branches of study, and can the publicly supported institutions with superior revenues afford equal advantages for research as compared with independent institutions resting upon private funds?

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SIGMA XI IN DULUTH, MINN.

THE "Quarter Century Record and History" of Sigma Xi appeared in 1913. It contained, among other valuable information, the names and addresses of all those elected to Sigma Xi up to December 31, 1911. Mr. Eugene Van Cleef conceived the idea of organizing the members residing in Duluth, believing that such an organization could prove more

or less successful. As a result of a little correspondence and personal interviews "The Society of Sigma Xi of Duluth, Minn.," was consummated with 10 charter members in July, 1913.

Meetings are held bimonthly. A dinner is served after which an informal paper is presented by one of the members and discussed by all. The wives of the members and a lady friend of each of the unmarried members may be guests at any meeting. Their attendance has been almost as regular as that of the men.

Each paper has covered some phase of the work in which the respective members are engaged. The nature of these presentations may be gained from some of the following titles selected at random: Heredity and Environment; The Valuation of Public Utilities; Design and Construction of the Aerial Bridge at Duluth; Climate and Man; The Learning Process and Acquisition of Skill, etc.

At present the membership consists of 3 mechanical engineers, 1 civil engineer, 1 agriculturist, 1 geographer, 1 physician and 1 psychologist. With such a variety of interests represented each one is assured of receiving information worth while at each meeting. The discussions are thoroughly alive and stimulating.

That the meetings have been worth much to each one is attested by the fact that the attendance for the past four years has been almost perfect, no one being absent unless because of circumstances over which they have had no control.

This announcement is made to the readers of SCIENCE, in the belief that others may care to adopt the idea in the locality in which they are now residing. There seems to be no reason for the cessation of interest in the welfare of Sigma Xi just because one is not engaged in academic work. The spirit of research should live after college days among all members of Sigma Xi, regardless of the course in life which they may pursue. Details of the organization in Duluth, not cited above, will be gladly given to any who may apply to the undersigned.

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