

helium atom will not account for the observed ionization potentials of that element.

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REPRINTS FROM SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS

THE librarian is not alone, I imagine, in considering the bound scientific reprints issued as contributions from a given laboratory, most difficult to handle. There should really be no place for articles already published to appear except as reprinted separates. Without doubt, a bound volume of the publications of an institution serves as a report of the work done. But a list of the authors and titles of papers with the place and time of publication would serve this purpose just as well or better. Certain universities issue such lists of the publications of their staffs, and give these lists under the different departmental heads. This seems eminently worth while even where the number of publications in a department is scant.

The department of physiology of one university and the department of botany in another send to this library serial lists of their publications and with the lists the separates themselves, placed in order in a folder. This seems as nearly a perfect method as can be devised. The lists may be filed in any convenient way and the separates dealt with according to the method found most useful to the recipient. The expense of binding is saved to the institution issuing these separates, and while the distribution of the separates may be selective, the printed lists can be given a wide publicity. Such lists if issued very generally would make useful bibliographies and could be systematically filed. At the same time, the departmental library, so important in these days of disappearing private libraries, would have to handle a given article but twice, the original in journal form and the separate.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Dr. Erwin F. Smith may have performed a service to the plant pathologists in publishing his "Introduction to bacterial diseases of plants," as I have no doubt he has; but he has surely performed a service to scientists everywhere, of every denomination, in publishing the last chapter of that book, "Part V. General Observations." In this he has collected the results of observation in the realms of the literature of science, the scientific method, the life of science and the science of life, all of which really does not express the material he has there collected. A catalogue of the headings the author has used will be more revealing. Here they are:

- On subsidiary studies
- On seeing things
- On experimentation
- On beginning work thoughtlessly
- On interpretation of phenomena
- On repetition of experiments—other people's, one's own
- On publication
- On clearness in presentation
- On brevity of statement—when brevity is not desirable
- On the ethics of research
- On keeping one's own counsel
- On team work
- On sharing credits
- On attending meetings and keeping up membership in societies, and on being generally public-spirited and helpful in science
- On rest and recreation

The student of science will find here counsel of the greatest value on such a subject as the preparation of a paper. Would that I might quote all that he says! "Many a big book could have been boiled down to a few chapters, and in some cases to a few sentences, or to nothing at all, had its author been possessed of *clear ideas*." "Easy writing is hard reading." ". . . it is your solemn duty to sum up the substance of your contribution in a series of brief conclusions which everyone will read, and which, if well put, may induce many to turn back and read your whole