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H. J. CONN,

*Chairman Executive Committee,
Commission on Standardization of
Biological Stains*

GENEVA, N. Y.

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QUOTATIONS

THE ROYAL SOCIETY

YESTERDAY being St. Andrew's Day, the fellows of the Royal Society, in accordance with their custom and duty since the middle of the seventeenth century, assembled to elect their officers and council for the ensuing year. Thereafter, in accordance with a custom more ancient than the formal granting of their charter, they reassembled in a tavern to "make merry with persons of consequence in the community." Long may it flourish and increase its influence on the affairs of the community, directly or through persons of consequence. It may be doubted if the election of fifteen new fellows annually, a wise restriction when the number was thus determined in 1847, is now sufficient, if the extension of science and of the empire since that date be considered. But it can not be doubted that the anxious care given to the selection of candidates has made the fellowship a real distinction, and the society the foremost representation of scientific opinion in the world. The more the pity that it does not use so fine a voice to its due capacity. The Royal Society should be the acknowledged adviser of the government, of the departments and of the nation on all scientific and in many educational matters. It should receive, allot and administer all state aid for scientific research and for higher scientific education. It should be the obvious channel into which private benefactions for scientific objects should be directed. In fact, the direct contacts of the Royal Society with government, with departments and with universities, have diminished rather than increased in recent years, and generous private benefactors have less often chosen it as the vehicle of their wishes. The officers and council elected yesterday are men of the highest distinction; let it be hoped that

they will take steps towards re-acquiring and increasing the direct influence and authority of the chief scientific body in the empire.—*The London Times.*

A PSYCHOLOGICAL CORPORATION

A "CORPORATION owned entirely by 166 psychologists!" Such a body gives at first a suggestion of unpracticality that would hardly recommend their stock to speculators on the market. For psychologists have to do not with objective substances but with the behavior of the mind—its origin, its powers and its functions. Yet this factor is really vital to every business, and the larger this human factor, the more practical the psychologist's part becomes. In this sense, these 166 psychologist stockholders are pragmatic people and not business mystics. In this distinguished directorate are such men as President Angell, Dr. G. Stanley Hall, Professor Thorndike and Dr. Cattell—the latter the president of the corporation.

The "heaven sprung message of the olden time" was, "Know thyself." It is now becoming not only the adage of the life insurance companies, of the life-prolonging institutions and of the schools, colleges and universities, but also the motto of business. Intelligence tests are the order of the day. Vague, good-natured letters of recommendation are no longer the open sesame to responsible positions. What civil service examinations have attempted to do for the public business this psychological corporation is to undertake by the application of psychological tests to those who wish to enter private business. Such independent tests made by competent disinterested experts should be of great value in determining certain kinds of fitness, which under the ordinary methods of selection are discovered usually with loss of time and wasteful experience.

William James used to say that the chief value of a college education was to enable you to know a good man when you saw one. But even if this power of discrimination were conferred with a bachelor's degree, it would not be sufficiently discerning to detect technical fitness or even professional intelligence. The psychologists aim to be brought in as appraisers and not as prophets.—*The New York Times.*