

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

ON the completion of the state general hospital now under construction at a cost of \$1,400,000 at the University of Wisconsin, the university plans a four-year course in medicine. The new hospital will have 300 rooms, twelve large wards and facilities for medical students to serve internships.

THROUGH an exchange agreement between Stanford University and Colorado Agricultural College, Professor Geo. T. Avery will take advanced work at Stanford the coming year.

PROFESSOR ROY G. COFFIN has been promoted to an associate professorship of chemistry in the Colorado Agricultural College.

DR. CHARLES H. DANFORTH has been promoted to full professorship in the department of anatomy at Stanford University School of Medicine.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

WHAT IS WRONG?

ONCE upon a time, a fable tells us, a bull, observing with pleasure the joyous frolics of some frogs, tried with the best intentions to assist in the sport, but the attempt was a failure. The unappreciative frogs cried out—"It may be fun for you, but it is death for us," and the bull withdrew, bewildered and disconsolate.

Some of us, engaged in research in industrial laboratories, may share the disappointment and bewilderment of the poor bull. We study with pleasure, profit and admiration the work of American research men in academic circles. We hope that our work in turn may benefit them, and to that end we freely publish our results. We even try in many ways to give direct assistance. We seek to strengthen the hands of our brother scientists and to earn their good will.

And now we are told by a very able man that we may be swallowing up "the soul of the university" (Dean Barus in the annual report of the president of Brown University, *SCIENCE*, April 13, 1923). We are crowding with our papers "the programs of the meetings of American learned societies." We are crushing "the incentives to a stimulating competition."

Dean Barus administers his rebuke in delightfully whimsical but earnestly forceful words, and, like the bull in the fable, we pause, disappointed and abashed, and ask—"What is wrong?"

Is there some corporate stigma we carry that makes us unfit companions in the cooperative study of Nature? Are we, too, branded with that "potent

cipher," "PAT," which Dean Barus finds marking the trail of "the trusts, as we fondly call them"? The industrial applications of our research may be patented, but we hope the new scientific facts we may discover will be without taint and of benefit to all scientific workers. Are we wrong in that?

Or is it the greater facilities of our laboratories, which, like the bull's avoirdupois, crush competition and overwhelm the professor's soul? If that is the trouble, what is the remedy? If the object of the competition were no more important than a golf championship, the Schenectady putter might perhaps reasonably be barred, as it is barred in England, in the interest of sport, but, in a game in which the object is the increase of human knowledge, an arbitrary limitation of implements would seem too extreme a concession to the sporting instinct. Would it not be better to put the best implements in the hands of all who could use them effectively?

And that, in a modest way, is precisely what we are trying to do. We are not wholly what the Old Soak calls a "mammal of unrighteousness," but if we were, our selfish interests would still insist on our helping academic research as far as we can, since what we, like the rest of the world, most need, and what is far more important to us than material equipment, is men, men with minds trained in scientific methods and filled with a sanely balanced enthusiasm for research. For this prime essential we must look to the universities, and we fully realize that only a vigorous spirit of research in the professor can awaken the spirit of research in the student, and that the spirit of research in the professor can be sustained and quickened only if he and his assistants are given time and facilities for advanced scientific work.

We keenly desire to help. If we are properly advised can we not really help?

Why can not a mutuality of interest and good will be developed between the workers in industrial and academic laboratories? We have tried to hasten such a development. Are we failing? If so, what is wrong?

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AN ANCIENT REFERENCE TO AIRSHIPS

THE suggested existence of airships in early days is found in a book published in 1922 by the Medici Society of London, "The Queen of Sheba and her only Son Menyelek," etc. This book is a translation of the "Kebra Nagast," with introduction by Sir E. A. Wallis Budge; the date of which manuscript Budge assigns to the sixth century, A. D., and the compila-