

SCIENCE

Vol. LX

SEPTEMBER 5, 1924

No. 1549

THE RESEARCH SPIRIT IN MODERN LIFE¹

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

Lancaster, Pa. **Garrison, N. Y.**
New York City: Grand Central Terminal.
Annual Subscription, \$6.00. Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter July 18, 1923, at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

For four years, living in this delightful community, under the guardianship of this great institution, participating in its benefits, drawing from its rich sources of supply, both material and intellectual, you young men and women have been through a process of development that marks a most important stage in your life career. But to-day we may not look only upon the memories of the past four years, but with janiform vision look forward as well and realize that we are at the commencement of a long period of life, for the most part, alas, unprotected by the motherly arms of the university and the cooperative efforts of class, fraternity and sorority mates.

It is indeed the unusual undergraduate who senses the true privilege that he is enjoying by life in this community. The money he contributes is but a small fraction of the cost entailed in providing the educational facilities here to be found. Everywhere about this campus there are evidences of the munificence of the state, the town and those who have passed on and who in grateful memory of what they have received here have attempted in manifold ways to repay their debt.

Laboratories, libraries and indeed fraternity and sorority houses are all evidences of the appreciation of those who have stood exactly as we are standing on this eventful day, many years ago. For four years this campus has seen you all, going hither and thither, each occupied with his or her problem, but each necessarily, perhaps subconsciously, mindful of the community's welfare. While everywhere one finds that freedom of action and freedom of speech have been encouraged, nevertheless no man can assert his rights if those rights are not sane and unobjectionable to the majority of his classmates, for with freedom of speech comes responsibility and weighing of words. So college life has taught us that each, personally, must have the welfare of others at heart.

The underlying spirit which has so coordinated the entire community life and has made for betterment of the moral and physical and intellectual body has been that of trying, experimenting, proving, developing, for progress even in the smallest degree can only be made or attained by experiment, although with a community as large and with the wide diversity of interests as is here found, obviously much of its life rules and principles must have been preformulated.

¹ Commencement address given at the University of Maine on June 9.