

SCIENCE

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CONTENTS

<i>Research in the Service of the State: DR. E. W. ALLEN</i>	165
<i>Researches on Insulin: PROFESSOR JOHN J. ABEL, E. M. K. GEILING, G. ALLES, A. RAYMOND</i>	169
<i>Expedition of the California Academy of Sciences to the Revillagigedo Islands: M. E. McLELLAN</i>	171
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>The Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Russian Academy of Sciences; The Dormitories of the Harvard Medical School; Honorary Degrees conferred by the University of Cambridge; Committees of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers</i>	173
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	176
<i>University and Educational Notes</i>	179
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i>	
<i>Evolution in the Physical World: PROFESSOR G. F. HULL. The Separation of the Depressor Principle from the Hepatic Tissue: DRs. A. A. JAMES, N. B. LAUGHTON and A. BRUCE MACALLUM. The Effect of Noise on Hearing: DR. JOHN W. ARNOLD. A Luminous Spider: BARNUM BROWN</i>	180
<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i>	
<i>The Second Derivative of a Current Voltage Characteristic Curve: DR. ARTHUR E. RUARK</i>	182
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>Theory of the Propagation of Short Radio Waves over Long Distances: DRs. A. HOYT TAYLOR and E. O. HULBERT. Crown gall in Relation to Nursery Stock: DRs. A. J. RIKER and G. W. KEITT</i>	183
<i>Northern California Conference on Science Teaching: MABEL B. PEIRSON</i>	185
<i>Science News</i>	x

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RESEARCH IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE¹

EVERYTHING has a beginning—even commencement. This annual festival of American colleges which we celebrate to-day traces back centuries ago to the medieval universities, where in form it was quite different from the present-day commencement.

The antecedent of this occasion was known in medieval times as "inception," and marked the admission of the graduate to the career of teaching. Hence the custom was for those who received the bachelor's degree to be invested with the insignia of the new rank—often the cap and ring—be placed in the master's chair and "incept" or begin to teach. Our word *commencement* was borrowed from Cambridge University, where the earlier form had been modified, and the first commencement exercises in this country were held at Harvard in 1642. In course of time the day came to be not only of academic importance but one of great festivity, evidently leading to excesses at times, for we read that in 1722 sumptuary laws were passed in this state prohibiting "commencers" from providing refreshments or liquors in their chambers, with what success we need not inquire at this remote date.

The medieval formalities of "inception" later developed into the expounding of theses or the defense of dissertations by the graduates and still later into the delivery of orations. Latterly it has come to be a listening-in occasion for the graduating class and their friends alike, with an address by an outsider, an innovation which in my student days would have been a welcome relief. But the world continues to move, and still another change may be in store. Already we have courses of instruction given by radio which do away with the need of assembly; may not the radio commencement, therefore, be waiting just around the corner?

However, for the class of '25, this is your day and for all of you it marks an inception, if not into teaching into a new stage in the working out of a career. It is the close of a preparatory period which helps the student to find himself, to understand his relations to the world and inspires purpose within him. Higher education is still limited to the few, amounting to less than one per cent. of the entire population in this country, or only about two per cent. of those of adult age. Every twenty of you

¹ Commencement address delivered at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, June 15, 1925.

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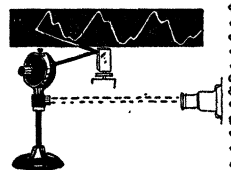
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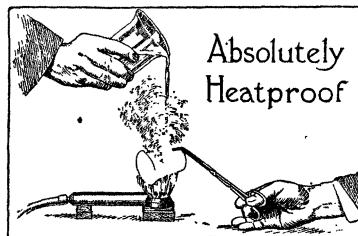
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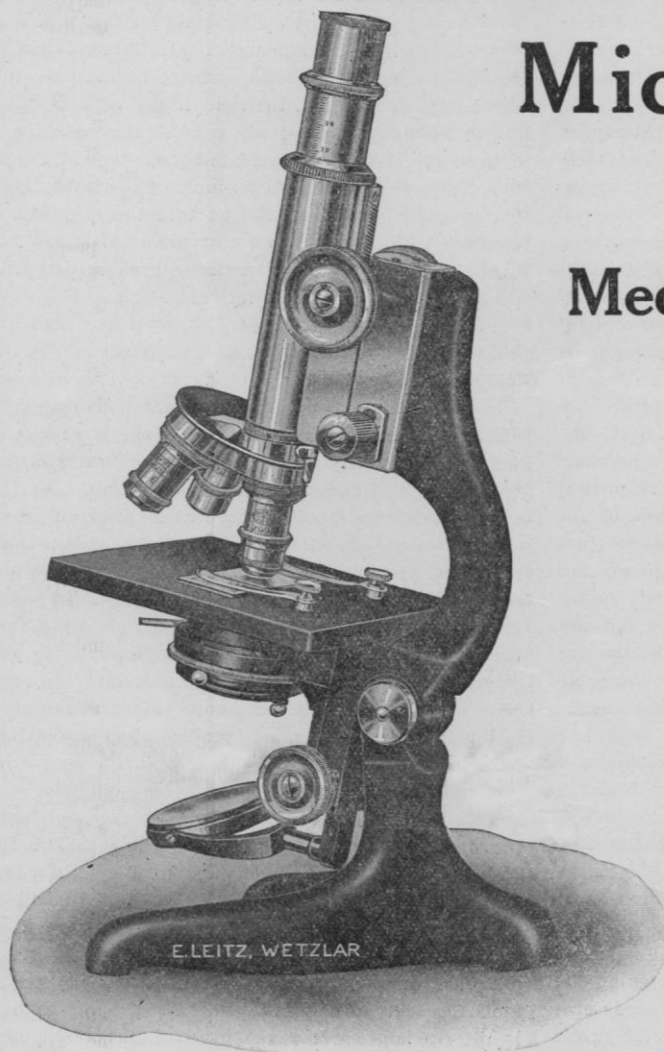
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The American Education Association:

The Educational Outlook at the End of the First Quarter of the Twentieth Century: JESSE H. NEWLON.
Education in Modern Italy: ADOLPH E. MEYER.

Educational Events:

Chinese Students and the Present Situation in China; Proposed Revival of an Ancient Court at Oxford; The Dictionary of American Biography; Progress in Negro Public Schools in the South; The International Kindergarten Union; A New Site for the New York University School of Education; The Age of College Presidents; Fellowships for Graduate Study in Neuropsychiatry.

Educational Notes and News.

Special Correspondence:

Special Education in Wyoming: BEATRICE MCLEOD.

Discussion:

State Progress in reducing the Proportion of Untrained Teachers: WILLIAM C. BAGLEY. *The Age of Retirement:* J. McKEEN CATTELL. *The Resignation of Dr. West:* MARIE O. H. BAUERNSCHMIDT.

Quotations:

A Compromise Curriculum.

Books and Literature: W. CARSON RYAN, JR.

Educational Research and Statistics:

Statistics of High Schools of the North Central States: C. O. DAVIS.

AUGUST 8, 1925

The Presidential Message to the Delegate Assembly of the World Federation of Education Associations: AUGUSTUS O. THOMAS.

A Uniform Grading System: JAMES HARVEY ROGERS.

Educational Events:

Reform of Teaching Methods in Soviet Universities; A Proposed Interchange of Mexican and American University Instructors; Negro Colleges; Motion Pictures and the Metropolitan Museum of Art; All-year Schools for Chicago; The S. S. "University"; A Fund for Dean Briggs of Harvard; The Laureate Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi.

Educational Notes and News.

Special Correspondence:

The All-year School Situation in Newark, New Jersey: Y.

Discussion:

History of Science in Secondary Education: G. A. MILLER.

Quotations:

The Teaching of Evolution in Georgia.

Books and Literature: W. CARSON RYAN, JR.

Educational Research and Statistics:

The Relative Stability of Intelligence Levels in Colleges: MYRA W. KUENZEL and HERBERT A. TOOPS.

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The International Education Research Council and World Bureau of Education: G. W. A. LUCKEY.
Revolutionizing College Environment with an Honors System: JAMES HARVEY ROGERS.

James Crosby Chapman: A. G.

Educational Events:

Proceedings at the World Federation of Education Associations; The Committee on Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations; The Institute of Pacific Relations; The Institute of Politics at Williamstown; Chemical Education; The Divinity School of the University of Chicago; An Evolution Case in the District of Columbia; The Conviction of John Thomas Scopes, Science Teacher.

Educational Notes and News.

Special Correspondence:

Foreign Languages in the High Schools of the State of New York: WILLIAM R. PRICE. *Resignations and Appointments at the University of Kansas:* W. A. DILL.

Discussion:

Vocational, Educational and Social Guidance: ANNA B. PRATT and EDITH M. EVERETT. *Realizing Forecasts in Adult Education:* ROBERT TUDOR HILL.

Quotations:

Subordinating War in the Text-books.

Reports:

The Engineering Community Trust.

Educational Research and Statistics:

Educational Survey of Building and Trades Apprentices in Cleveland, Ohio: J. RAY STINE.

AUGUST 15, 1925

The World Federation of Education Associations:

Who shall mould the Mind of America? WILLIAM F. RUSSELL.

Higher Education and International Cooperation: HENRY NOBLE MACCRACKEN.

Why we Study: NEVIN M. FENNEMAN.

Educational Events:

Modern Foreign Language Study in Canada; University Residences in Paris; Higher Education in Egypt; Education in Austria; The Yeshiva College Building Fund; The Summer High Schools of New York State; The Personnel Division of the American Council on Education; A Proposed University for Kansas City.

Educational Notes and News.

Special Correspondence:

The California State Survey of Mental and Educational Tests: VAUGHAN MACCAUGHEY.

Discussion:

Excavation of the Market-Place of Ancient Athens: EDWARD CAPPS.

Quotations:

Schoolhouse Costs; Handicapped Children; The All-year School.

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