# SARGENT'S Pythagoras Combustion Tubes

### Made of a New and Highly Efficient Material

We are glad to announce that after a search and experiments covering a long period of time we have been able to find a material which is much better suited to combustion tube use than any other material up to the present time.

SARGENT'S PYTHAGORAS COMBUSTION TUBES made of this material are exceedingly dense at all temperatures and accordingly air tight at all heats.

The melting point is exceedingly high and there is no danger of the tube falling in at temperatures used for combustion work.

An important characteristic is that metals do not readily adhere to the material of which these tubes are made, and, consequently, the tubes are easily cleaned. It is particularly resistive to aluminum.

The tubes are very free from chemical action and are in no way absorbers of the products of combustion, aiding materially in the accuracy of carbon determinations.

The tubes are not affected by molten metals and remain inert. They resist to a very high degree the action of basic salts and acids.

They have a high heat conductivity and as a result there is very little lag between the temperature inside the tubes and outside. They withstand intermittent heating and cooling very successfully.

Their physical strength is excellent and stoppers may be readily forced into the tube without breaking at the ends.

These tubes can be made with relatively thin walls, and, therefore, tubes with one inch inside diameter, which are now so frequently called for, can be readily supplied to fit electric combustion furnaces as now supplied.

The price of these tubes is considerably less than the price of the best tubes now in use, with the exception of porcelain, which has been discarded as combustion tube material. SARGENT'S PYTHAGORAS COMBUSTION TUBES sell for about one-half the price of fused silica tubes and cost considerably less than tubes of other refractory material.

The tubes are supplied in  $\frac{7}{8}$  and 1" inside diameters and in lengths of 24" and 30". The prices of these SARGENT'S PYTHAGORAS COMBUSTION TUBES are as follows:

7/8″	inside	diameter,	24″	long	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	\$4.25	each
7/8''	inside	diameter,	30″	long		4.50	each
1″	inside	diameter,	24″	long		4.75	each
1″	inside	diameter,	30′′	long	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	5.00	each

We shall be pleased to correspond with our customers regarding these tubes and answer to the best of our ability any questions which may be asked.



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#### EXAMPLES

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# SCIENCE

Vol. XLVI JULY	1, 1927	No. 1696
CONT	TENTS	
The Lure of Medical History	y: Dr. E. B.	KRUMBHAAR 1
Exit Huebner's Tentamen:		
George Bishop Sudworth: W	ILL C. BARN	ES 6
Scientific Events:		
Memorial of the Research of Michigan; The Nation Control; Award of the L ments at the Rockefelle	al Arboretun Langley Medi	n; Mosquito 1l; Appoint-
Research		
Scientific Notes and News		
University and Educational	Notes	13
Concerning "Species-grind JORDAN. Biology versus Court: PERCY VIOSCA, JR W. W. KEEN, CHARLES H Aerography? DR. ALEXA nomic": DR. RAYMOND S	Mythology in . Datum an I. BLAKE. A NDER MCADI	ı a Criminal d Data: DR. lirgraphy or E. ''Astro-
Scientific Apparatus and La Directions for determinin of Soils by the Hydrome J. BOUYOUCOS	ng the Colloin ter Method:	<i>dal Material</i> Dr. George
Special Articles:		
The Life History of Taper cestoides: Dr. BENJAMIN tion of Bufo Tadpoles to hols: Dr. HARRY THOMAS	SCHWARTZ. Ethyl and 1	Acclimatiza- Uethyl Alco-
The American Association Science:	for the Adv	ancement of
The Second Nashville Me and Associated Societies LIVINGSTON	• •	BURTON E.
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### THE LURE OF MEDICAL HISTORY<sup>1</sup>

THE advantages of a respectable acquaintance with the history of one's profession should be obvious to all and have been recognized by many. Littré, the great lexicographer, realized that without its background a science is reduced to the category of a mere trade, and Goethe with no great poetic license maintained that the history of a science is the science itself. If "each age steps on the shoulders of the ages that have gone before" (Foster), then certainly those who hope to be in the forefront of medicine must be acquainted with the body of the preceding age on whose shoulders they are to step. As a matter of practical importance, too, knowledge of how knowledge accrues and of the mistakes of the past is of prime importance in preventing similar mistakes in our present work and no one is on more unsafe ground or slips with less regret on the part of the onlookers than the coxcomb, who, disregarding the past as a dead and buried conglomeration of futile and incorrect superstitions, stakes his all on his own limited vision. As Osler says, "By the historical method alone can many problems in medicine be approached profitably. For example the student who dates his knowledge of tuberculosis from Koch may have a very correct, but a very incomplete appreciation of the subject." As a matter of fact, how many go even as far back as Koch?

If this is so widely recognized, why is the average ignorance of the history of our art so appalling? Chiefly because of the college and state board examinations, which before all else must be passed, so that with rapid accumulation of the facts of medical science, the curriculum becomes more and more overcrowded, the "exam" correspondingly more difficult and your vicious circle is established.

Fortunately, there are signs of a rift in the clouds, permitting the undergraduate student to regain from the curriculum time for thought and the cultivation of some of what might be called the "belles lettres" of his chosen profession. Prominent among these is the history of medicine, which, if impossible for most of us to cultivate as a scientific discipline on account of more pressing work, can at least fill the position of that most useful and important activity—a hobby. Many an American physician has drawn boundless pleasure from this particular hobby and a few even

<sup>1</sup> From the laboratories of the Philadelphia General Hospital. An address to the Piersol Anatomical Society of the University of Pennsylvania, February 18, 1927.



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