

the institution after all academic degrees, whereas it is not so in the United States. When we see a Ph.D. from an American university we are at a loss to know whether the Ph.D. was obtained from Harvard or Yale or from any other university whose charter has been granted only the year previous to the granting of the Ph.D. We moreover know that there were universities in the United States which would confer a doctor's degree with no more preliminaries than the payment of a specified fee. I know of one instance where a certain individual, an Indian, obtained a doctor's degree—I am not sure whether it was Ph.D. or LL.D.—by paying \$100, and he had never been to America! These spurious titles naturally give a bad impression of the universities of America, and the good ones suffer with the bad ones. If, on the other hand, it were customary to write the name of the university after the titles are given, it could easily be seen whether the letters of the alphabet are purely ornamental or if they have any value, and when unaccompanied by the name of the institution granting the degree it could be taken as an indication that the *alma mater* is nothing to be proud of. But perhaps the course I suggest is contrary to democratic principles.

Another thing which brings American scientific institutions into contempt is their lack of understanding in certain respects. Very often a book will be published in India and after the author's name will be a note saying "Foreign Correspondent to X. Institution," which means nothing more than that the author once wrote a letter to the institution in question. Unless the author is a bona-fide "foreign correspondent" or whatever he professes to be, such "boosting" should be strictly prohibited, even going to the length of legally prosecuting the author and the publisher.

The proper recognition of American science—for

which the writer, though not educated in any American university, has the greatest respect—can be achieved not by adopting mercenary policies, but by taking pride in the institution which has made us what we are.

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THE SENSITIZATION OF GUINEA PIGS TO POISON IVY

WHEN an acetone extract of poison ivy leaves is painted on the skin, normal guinea pigs show a slight inflammatory reaction. When, however, the treatment is reapplied after an interval, the second response is markedly stronger than the first. Also, the previously treated, sensitized animal will react to dilutions too weak to produce a definite response in normal animals.

When the extract is injected into the peritoneal cavity or into muscle, no change in sensitivity can be demonstrated later by painting the skin with poison ivy extract. It appears that sensitiveness of the skin is produced only by treatment of the skin.

One intravenous or intramuscular injection of the extract into sensitive animals does not alter the degree of response to later skin tests. Passive transfer of the sensitiveness has failed, not only when the blood of the sensitized animal was injected locally in the skin, but when it was given intraperitoneally to a normal animal.

Tests of sensitiveness by injecting the extract intracutaneously result in the same response in sensitive as in normal animals. If the extract is concentrated, necrosis results but if dilute, no reaction at all may result.

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THE TEMPLETON CROCKER EXPEDITION TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

THE auxiliary schooner *Zaca*, owned by Mr. Templeton Crocker, returned to San Francisco on September 15, 1933, after conducting a preliminary medical, ethnological and natural history survey of parts of the Solomon Islands. In addition to Mr. Templeton Crocker, leader of the expedition, the scientific staff included Dr. Sylvester M. Lambert, of the Western Pacific Health Service; Mr. Gordon White, of the British Solomon Islands Health Department; Malachai, native medical practitioner of Suva, Fiji; Mr. Gordon MacGregor, ethnologist on the staff of the

Bernice P. Bishop Museum; Mr. Norton Stewart, naturalist of Santa Barbara, Calif.; Mr. Maurice Willows, entomological collector; Dr. John Hynes, of New Haven, Conn., ship's surgeon, and Mr. Toshio Asaeda, artist and photographer.

The *Zaca* left San Francisco on March 2 and sailed via Ensenada, Mexico, to Honolulu, where her outfitting was finished. En route to the Solomons she stopped at Palmyra Island, where plants and insects were obtained, and at Puka Puka, where other collections were made, together with ethnological notes. After calls at Pago Pago and Suva, and an official entrance into the Solomons at Vanikolo Island, Santa