

character; while most of them, of course, have to do a large amount of teaching.

It would be difficult or impossible to overestimate the value of the teaching and economic work referred to. They are indispensable and in every way worthy of the support they receive. But research in pure science—meaning by this term research directed toward ascertaining the methods of nature without immediate economic or educational ends—is even more necessary, for it is the rock on which the other two must necessarily build. It also must be supported—and by whom? Surely by the recipient of the benefits it confers, that is, the human race.

I can not agree with President Roosevelt that the highest work will never be affected by the question of compensation. It will be and is continually affected by the fact that it can not get even the wherewithal to keep the machine at work. On the other hand, it is likely to be totally destroyed, if affected at all, by the offer of 'brilliant positions.' For what are these positions, judging from those now existing? Mainly and often wholly executive; useful and honorable, indeed, but not, in their essence, *scientific* positions at all! Who proposes to pay a man ten thousand a year, and then *leave him alone to go on with his work?* Really, the situation suggests a slang expression, not fitted for the pages of SCIENCE.

I once heard of an Englishman who said he would work hard in science until he got his F.R.S., and would then stop. We do not want men with that spirit, who begin and continue with the hope and expectation of a prize, financial or social. The scientific man has his real prizes, which he values highly and of which he can not be robbed; these are to see his ideas and discoveries woven into the fabric of human knowledge, and become integral and essential parts of the great temple of which he is one of the myriad builders. This alone is to him worth while; and it is a positive injury to divert him with baubles. His prayer is, to be permitted to work as long as life lasts, and that it may be said of him, as I heard it said of that fine old entomologist,

J. O. Westwood, in his last years, 'he never gets tired.'

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

THE EDITORSHIP OF THE ENGINEERING AND
MINING JOURNAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: On July 1, 1905, Mr. T. A. Rickard relinquished the managing editorship of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, a position which he held with merit for two and a half years. Although Mr. Rickard has been succeeded by others who will maintain the high standing of the *Journal* as a technical magazine, his voluntary retirement, in my opinion as an American geologist, is a distinct loss to science in this country, inasmuch as, in addition to his intimate knowledge of the business side of mining, he appreciated the important relation of this subject to geology. Through this appreciation, during his editorial incumbency, he secured and stimulated many excellent original contributions upon the geology of interesting localities, which would not otherwise have been published.

Of all the economic applications of geology, the questions pertaining to the origin, occurrence and availability of ore deposits are by far the most important, and, perhaps, the sympathy and encouragement of mining men have been the greatest impetus in this country toward securing the means of purely scientific research.

The numbers of the *Journal* edited by Mr. Rickard constitute a most valuable addition to the annals of American geology, and it is hoped that the talents of business integrity, high idealism and charming literary style, so rarely found in combination with scientific knowledge and so well developed in him, will not long continue idle.

That Mr. Rickard has recently declined a professorship of mining in the Royal School of Mines, a position which carries with it title and honor, and has chosen to remain in America, will be gratifying to all of his confrères in the geological profession.

R. T. H.