

THE *Electrical World* states that according to M. P. Bellile, a French naval surgeon on board the *Descartes*, which has been engaged in the campaign in Morocco, the members of the ship's company who were employed in wireless telegraph duty developed various affections in consequence of the action of the Hertzian waves. Most commonly the telegraphists complained of their eyes, a slight conjunctivitis similar to that occurring among those who work with arc lamps being found. Although this of itself was not generally serious, in one case where the attacks recurred again and again, keratitis was produced which resulted in a leukoma of the right cornea and consequent impairment of vision. In order to protect the eyes from the ultra-violet rays of electric emanation, it was recommended that yellow or orange glasses should be worn. Not only were the eyes of the operators affected, but two cases of eczema—one of the wrist and one of the eyelid, both very difficult to cure—were seen. One of the officials who had been employed for several years in wireless telegraphy suffered from a painful palpitation of the heart, which came on after working for any length of time at the instruments for sending messages. This man was quite free from any organic lesion of the heart. M. Bellile is disposed to think that a good many of the cases of nervousness and neurasthenia, which seem now to be getting rather common among naval men, may be due to the work which is being done in wireless telegraphy.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It is proposed to form a University of Detroit by amalgamation of the law and medical colleges already existing in the city.

MRS. RUSSELL SAGE has given \$50,000 to Syracuse University for a Teachers College.

THE installation of Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell as president of Harvard University will take place on the morning of October 6.

DR. EDMUND C. SANFORD, A.B. (California, '83), Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins, '88), professor of experimental psychology in Clark University, has been elected president of Clark College

to succeed the late Carroll D. Wright. Dr. James F. Porter, of the department of psychology, has been appointed acting dean of the college in the place of Professor Rufus C. Bentley, who has resigned.

PROFESSOR HERBERT J. WEBBER, will act as director of the Agricultural College of Cornell University during the absence this year of the director, Professor L. H. Bailey.

MR. H. I. STOEK, for many years editor of *Mines and Minerals*, has been appointed professor of mining engineering at the University of Illinois. He has recently been serving as an expert of the United States Geological Survey in charge of investigations of waste in mining anthracite. During the past three years he has lectured on mining at Cornell University, Pennsylvania State College, Sheffield Scientific School and Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

MR. W. E. WICKENDEN, of the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed assistant professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to assume the duties vacated by Professor George C. Shaad, who has gone to take charge of the department at the University of Kansas.

THE following changes have been made in the science departments at the University of Maine for the present year: Ralph H. McKee, Ph.D. (Chicago), professor of chemistry; Charles W. Easley, Ph.D. (Clark), associate professor of chemistry; Benjamin E. Kraybill, B.S. (Franklin & Marshall), instructor in chemistry; G. A. Scott, B.S. (Wisconsin), instructor in physics; E. C. Drew, B.S. (Vermont), tutor in physics; W. E. Wilbur, B.S. (Maine), S. D. Chambers, B.S. (Baldwin), and T. L. Hamlin, M.A. (Missouri), instructors in mathematics; G. E. Simmons, M.S. (Ohio State University), and M. E. Sherwin, M.S. (Missouri), assistant professors of agronomy; W. R. Palmer, B.S. (Oregon Agricultural College), instructor in horticulture; J. R. Dice, B.S. (Michigan Agricultural College), instructor in animal industry; Laura Comstock, assistant professor of domestic science; N. H. Mayo, B.S. (Maine), and W. E. Connor, B.S. (Maine), tutors in civil engi-

neering; E. C. Cheswell, instructor in engineering laboratories; P. L. Bean, B.S. (Maine), promoted to associate professor of civil engineering; A. L. Grover, B.S. (Maine), promoted to assistant professor of drawing.

DR. OTTO GROSSNER, of Vienna, has been elected professor of anatomy at the University of Prague.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE HARVARD CLASSICS AND HARVARD

##### I. *The Harvard Classics*

SOME one quotes to me a remark of William James's, "That no body of men can be counted on to tell the truth under fire." Perhaps "firing" is, after all, not a very effective method of searching for truth; and perhaps those who do the firing are more bent on making points than on getting to the root of the matter.

Two letters which I wrote during the summer to Harvard officials, on the "Harvard Classics" illustrate, aptly enough, the weakness of controversial methods as a means of securing assent to anything. In one of these public letters I asked Dr. Eliot, and in the other I asked Mr. Henry L. Higginson, trustee of Harvard, whether Harvard College had indeed granted the use of its name to the famous five-foot-shelf publication to which the public is now being invited to subscribe. No public answer was given to the letters; but the fact remains that the university did, by formal vote, lend its name to this book enterprise.

At this time I can realize, in re-reading these letters, that there was in them a good deal of desire to give pain, to see the worst, to nail the claws of the offenders to the ground, to state facts in such a way that the Harvard officials could not answer without making humiliating confessions and without, in effect, acknowledging that I was more virtuous than they.

At the bottom of the whole situation, however, and behind the conditions which produced the "Harvard Classics" there are certain facts about American culture to-day that ought to be considered dispassionately.

It required a very peculiar juncture of influences between our educational world and our commercial world to produce "the Harvard Classics."

For the last thirty years Harvard has been struggling to keep the lead among American colleges; and Harvard has been content to take its definition of leadership—to adopt its ideal of leadership from the commercial world. We see in this the atmospheric pressure of industrial ways of thinking upon an educational institution. The men who stand for education and scholarship have the ideals of business men. They are, in truth, business men. The men who control Harvard to-day are very little else than business men, running a large department store which dispenses education to the million. Their endeavor is to make it the *largest* establishment of the kind in America.

Now, in devising new means of expansion, new cash registers, new stub systems and credit systems—systems for increasing their capital and the volume of their trade—these business men have unconsciously (and I think consciously also) adopted any method that would give results. A few years ago their attention was focused upon increasing their capital (new buildings and endowment): to-day it is focused upon increasing their trade (numbers of students). The whole body of graduates is being organized into a kind of "service" to employ Harvard men, to advertise Harvard, to make converts, to raise money, to assist in a general Harvard forward movement.

Henry Higginson and Charles W. Eliot and Dr. Walcott and Dr. Arthur Cabot, and the various organized agencies under them, feel that Harvard should be kept in the front; and they are willing to appeal to self-interest in the youth of the country in order to get that youth to come to Harvard. It is given out that Harvard means help for life; Harvard is for mutual assistance; Harvard means cheap clubs and many friends on graduation. The wonderful ability of the American business man for organization is now at work consolidating the Harvard