

the attachments of a professor have been mostly to his university rather than to the fellowship of his particular science. Of recent years, with the organization of national scientific societies, some change has occurred in this respect. It is to guilds of scholars, whether formally organized or not, that we must look for setting the standard of scholarly production. The fellowship of scholars can only be a matter of gradual development, and their standards also must grow and can not be suddenly and artificially raised; but there is plenty of evidence that the standards of our scholarly guilds have been rapidly improving, and they will probably continue to improve. Such guilds possess rewards and punishments of their own, for the standing of a man among his fellows is one of the strongest incentives to action. The standards of the guilds must eventually be the standards of the universities; and thus we hold in our own hands, quite apart from the momentary attitude of university authorities, a force capable of raising the level of our own work and that of our successors.

R. S. WOODWORTH

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

BIOLOGICAL TEACHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A MEETING of men interested in the advancement of biological teaching in secondary schools was held at the Harvard Union, Cambridge, on Saturday, February 4. Those present were Professor G. H. Parker, Harvard University; Principal Irving O. Palmer, Newton Technical High School; Dr. H. R. Linville, Jamaica (N. Y.) High School; R. H. Howe, Jr., Middlesex School; Samuel F. Tower, Boston English High School; S. Warren Sturgis, Groton School; Head Master Frank E. Lane and W. L. W. Field, Milton Academy. The relation of school biology to civics, the sequence of laboratory experiments, outdoor work with classes and college requirements were the topics informally discussed. The undersigned was authorized to communicate with other teachers with a view to establishing a series of conferences, perhaps to be held alternately in Boston and New York.

Correspondence is accordingly invited from interested readers of this notice.

W. L. W. FIELD

MILTON ACADEMY,

MILTON, MASS.,

February 6, 1911

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Questioned Documents. A Study of Questioned Documents with an Outline of Methods by which the Facts may be Discovered and Shown. By ALBERT S. OSBORN. With an Introduction by Professor JOHN H. WIGMORE. Two hundred illustrations. Rochester, N. Y., The Lawyers' Cooperative Publishing Co. 1910. Pp. xxiv + 501.

"Questioned Documents" is an admirably clear presentation of the application by experts of modern scientific methods to the study of handwriting. It gives a detailed exposition of the use in the identification of handwriting of enlarged photographs taken in various lights, of the document microscope and of the color microscope designed for recording the tints and shades of ink. The instruments and appliances used in getting accurate measurements of such details of writing as the width of the line-stroke and the slant of various parts are also described. Particularly interesting is the suggestion of the new application of stereoscopic photography in such a way as to determine in disputed handwriting the sequence of crossed lines, the time-relation of writing to folds in paper and the presence of erasures and changes in paper-fiber.

The purpose of the book is practical—a very successful attempt to present the science of handwriting in relation to law, an attempt which constitutes a new and profitable departure in legal literature. The author would arouse the interest of the trial lawyer in, and his intelligent comprehension of, the problems involved in questioned documents, so that he may be better qualified to deal with situations involving such matters. Those interested in the pure science of handwriting will, none the less, find much to learn from the author relative to its accurate measurement and analysis. The reviewer is acquainted with no other