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SCIENTISTS CHANGE VIEWS.

Nothing is more certain than the uncertainty of many scientific theories. They are formed to explain known facts, but it very often happens that as soon as they have obtained currency, other facts are discovered, which upset the old theories and necessitate their modification, or entire reconstruction.

We are again reminded of this by a newspaper statement to the effect that scientists are about to abandon the so-called nebular hypothesis as an entirely unsatisfactory attempt at explaining the creation of worlds. According to an article in the Maroon, the University of Chicago paper, a new theory has been accepted as more satisfactory by members of the geology and astronomy departments of that institution of learning.

The nebular hypothesis supposes that our sun at one time was a stupendous cloud extending to the vast distances in which the most remote planets move. This nebulous mass rotated, and as it cooled off it contracted towards the center. But as it contracted, the rotation became more rapid, and finally the outer part of the mass was thrown off. This portion, separated from the rest, condensed and formed planets and satellites, while the central mass became a sun. The theory has very generally been accepted as the best one offered, though there have always been doubters.

The new theory, as explained by Prof. Salisbury in an address before the College of Philosophy, states that the earth was formed from the collecting together in space of the masses of matter cast off by collisions of heavenly bodies, the larger attracting the smaller, and the mass constantly growing. The tremendous pressure of gravity, which is being constantly increased by this growth, accounts for the heat at the center of the earth; in fact, accounts for a tremendously greater heat than would be possible by the claim of the nebular theory.

The growth of the earth in this manner to any considerable extent has ceased millions of years ago, the Professor said, although millions of small meteoric bodies are constantly falling upon the earth. The compression of the material at the center causing great heat also causes the elements to form new compounds, which, of course, will be denser, and therefore occupy less space. It is thus that the formation of smaller masses at the center leaves the outer and cooler crust too large, and it must wrinkle and warp, accounting for the earthquakes, mountains, and so on.

When the earth became large enough to hold water vapor in its atmosphere, life, as we understand it, became possible and this condition probably began hundreds of millions of years back.

This is the new theory. It regards matter as existent in space, in a chaotic, scattered condition, and the formation of worlds as the result of the operation of the laws of nature, whereby suns and planets after being broken up are again re-formed into new globes.

This theory certainly is more in accordance with the views expressed by Latter-day Saints and founded on the Scriptures. A modification of the theories concerning the duration of the geological ages would seem to follow from the abandonment of the nebular hypothesis.

The present status of the interior of the earth is another question that must be reconsidered, when the new theory is accepted. Is the earth a molten fluid upon which floats a thin solid shell? Lord Kelvin always denied this. The story is told that he, on one occasion, to prove his contention that the interior of the earth must be solid, took two eggs, one hard boiled and the other raw, and suspending them by cords, spun them in imitation of the earth's rotation. In a very short while the raw egg lost its momentum and came to rest, while the boiled one went on spinning merrily for quite a long while. From this he argued that if the earth had a liquid core it would have come to an end long ago.

As we have said, theories change. Scientists shift ground as they receive new light. And the lesson of it all is that man, notwithstanding all his achievements, is dependent upon a higher wisdom than his own, for that knowledge which does not pass away. Left to himself he is groping about, slowly finding his way, stumbling over obstacles and falling into hidden pits. He needs the light of revelation even in his scientific researches.

THE MONEY CERTIFICATES.

The president of the New York Clearing House has publicly stated that at the crisis, of the recent money panic, \$97,000,000 in loan certificates had been issued there. The amount issued during the panic of 1893, which held the previous record, was \$38,000,000.

The reserve money in the banks there in November was 30 per cent of the outstanding deposits, practically the same as at the crisis of 1893.

These loan certificates undoubtedly saved the banks under a severe strain, which would have closed many of them, but for the help of these credit papers.

These certificates meant simply that the stronger banks lent their credits to the weaker ones. The latter did not

demand the money so placed to their credit, but accepted these six per cent due bills instead. This expedient served to support many institutions by reason of the credit of the large ones. But if all the banks were to take out such certificates, and were to use them in payment of balances to one another, the purpose of the device would have been defeated. The result would simply be that no bank would pay cash for its daily indebtedness to other clearing house institutions. In one month of 1893, no less than 95 per cent, of these mutual balances was paid in loan certificates, and something like this must have happened last November.

It therefore seems unwise and unsafe to rely permanently upon such expedients, clever and serviceable as they have often been. Bankers should grapple with this problem in a larger way. The belief that the mere resources of the banks themselves would be sufficient to guarantee confidence and to prevent the disastrous effects of an unnecessary panic has been disproved. Suspension of payments occurred on a large scale in 1907, and was at least as serious among the banks as in the panic of 1873 and 1893.

ECONOMICS AND RELIGION.

The report of the President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching discloses the curious fact that those American universities whose incomes are the largest are apparently most in need of money.

This condition arises not only out of the great increase in the number of students at the larger institutions, but also from the fact that the cost per student per year has greatly increased. In 1870 when Harvard College and the Lawrence Scientific School had but five hundred and seventy-five students, the cost per student per year was two hundred and fifty-four dollars. In 1906, when there were twenty-eight hundred students in the college, the scientific school, and the graduate school, the cost per student per year had risen to four hundred and twenty dollars.

It is believed that the lack of economic methods of administration accounts for much of this extraordinary rise in the cost per student in institutions of higher learning.

On the subject of denominational colleges, the report refers to the arguments that have been presented to the Foundation emphasizing the need of religious training and conceding that men are right in saying that a profoundly religious training is a profoundly serious one, but argues that the question still remains open, as to whether denominational connection gives any greater security of such influence on the life of the youth in colleges. It claims that what is needed today is religious leadership, and doubts whether such leadership is more likely to be secured by seeking it within a specified denomination or without regard to denominational lines, and whether the leadership chosen within a given denomination will tend rather to be denominational than religious. This significant statement is made: "The experience of the past certainly inclines thoughtful men to question whether those whose primary object is to save men's souls are the best qualified for training their minds."

Such may have been the narrowness of many religious teachers in the past; but bigotry and religious zeal are not synonyms. It should be possible to find teachers who are religious, educated, and broadminded.

RECOGNIZING ART.

In the national struggle for the accumulation of gold, art in America has been sadly overlooked. Those who have worked with chisel, brush, and pencil, have mostly worked because they valued their art more than a livelihood.

But in the recent turn of sentiment, art is receiving broader recognition. The scramble for money seems to have very nearly exhausted itself. Watering stocks, pyramiding securities, taking out exorbitant dividends, have ceased to be considered respectable, and it is to be hoped that the country has passed its greatest activity in this line, never to return to it.

Meanwhile from Columbia University, geographically centered to begin so important a task, comes a reassuring bit of news. Kenyon Cox, Daniel C. French and John La Farge are announced as additional members to the faculty, the first to be professor of painting; the second professor of sculpture, and the last, professor of the decorative arts.

With this beginning, how long will it be before a national school of art is established in a country where, ten years ago, a big pork packer is said to have offered to buy a painting, if the artist would fatten up the cow in the background, and sketch a few pigs in the foreground, so that he might hang it up as an advertisement for his business?

AMERICAN EDUCATION.

Some pretentious university catalogues for the current academic year are at hand from the east. The Bulletin of Yale University, and the Cornell University Register show steady advances in methods and extent of instruction of these universities, with that constant tendency to specialization that so marks the educational spirit of the age. The genius of today becomes the species tomorrow.

This steady progress of subdivision branching out into a ramification of detail in research and individual investigation not even dreamed of a few years ago. This tendency is illustrated in the increase in electives, the more and more subordinating of the common ground work to the secondary schools and Freshman and Sophomore years in college. Standards of admission today, are far above the requirements of ten years ago, and on account of the length of time hitherto necessary to acquire a thorough professional training—four years in college and three in the professional schools, elementary courses of professional study have been incorporated in the curriculum of junior and senior years of the under-

graduate departments. This change, it is found, will save a year of strictly professional study.

There is a marked advance over the previous academic year in the general aim and scope of instruction in the several subjects of study. In the matter of Latin, it is intended that by the close of Freshman year, the student shall have gained a clear conception of the genius of the language and its relations to other ancient and to modern tongues, a good knowledge of the characteristics of Latin literature, the essential facts of Roman history, and some appreciation of the position of Rome in the history of civilization. The connections of Latin with English are emphasized, and written translations are from time to time required and criticized with reference both to faithful reproduction of the Latin thought and to idiomatic English. Greek may be continued through the four years of the college course, if desired, or cut off at the close of the course of required general work. The reading of the noted Greek writers is selected with a view to familiarizing the student with the leading branches of Greek literature and the most interesting phases of Greek life and thought. There is a tendency to minimize grammatical detail and maximize literary quality, structure of the text, forms, arrangement of words, rhythm and construction. Then the growth and development of the language is considered as well as the development of its literature. Courses in Platonic and Aristotelian philosophy are offered in group courses in philosophy.

More attention is being paid to classical archaeology to Greek sculpture, architecture and lesser arts, topography and monuments, Roman and Etruscan art. Extended opportunities are offered for comprehensive study and original research in Sanskrit, linguistics and comparative philology, with special investigation into the Indo-European family of languages. The study of Biblical literature and the Semitic languages may now begin in the Sophomore year, at Yale, and continue through Senior year, the same being credited to the student in post-graduate study in the divinity school. A marked increase of attention is being now paid to the Romance languages (French, Spanish, and Italian), with the study of the last two languages begun in Sophomore year, German and Scandinavian may be studied at Yale the entire course, constant sight translation being used to strengthen and develop the student vocabulary; but to teach conversation in German is not a leading aim. The instruction in English is extensive and thorough, more than ever. There is a constant crowding of the higher mathematics into the earlier years of the course; and in physics, chemistry, geology, philosophy, biology and the medical sciences there is noted progress in the ground covered. Theory and practice of education courses appear this year in the catalogues. A more important place than ever is given to economics and law as undergraduate studies, which are proving a drawing card; and music and the fine arts are given greater prominence. It has been found advisable in the Scientific schools, not only of Yale and Cornell but elsewhere to require a working knowledge of Latin for admission. Scientific technology is based on Latin and Greek (mostly the former), and lack of knowledge of Latin etymology has been found a hindrance to study progress; so now Virgil and Cæsar, Latin grammar with Roman and Greek history are required. A new and valuable feature in the Yale and Columbia catalogues is the Yale-Columbia course in preparation for consular service. The total Yale registration is 3,433 students, of whom 92 are from 17 foreign countries. China sends 25, Japan 16, Canada, 21, Turkey 7. Utah sends four students, Wyoming one, Idaho two, Montana eight, New Mexico one, Colorado 30, Nevada one, California 44, Arizona three. The Philippines sends six students. One hundred and sixty-five other colleges and universities have graduates studying in the different departments at Yale.

The Cornell Register evidences a very material advance in scientific instruction; and the thoroughness of this is illustrated by the fact that a young graduate in civil engineering went to Africa, where he superintended successfully the erection of a series of steel bridges for the Uganda railway. The work of the undergraduate in engineering is based upon an extended course in mechanics, and the graphics and economics of engineering; the object aimed at being as thorough a preparation as possible, for instance, in the survey, location and construction of roads, railroads, canals and waterworks, construction of foundations in water and on land, and of superstructures and tunnels; improvement and defense of coasts, regulation of rivers, harbors and lakes; the astronomical determination of geographical co-ordinates for geodetic and other purposes, the application of mechanics, graphical statics, and descriptive geometry to the construction of the various kinds of arches, bridges, roofs, trusses, suspension and cantilever bridges; the drainage of districts, reclamation of lands; irrigation and reconstruction of towns; design and building, application and tests of wind and hydraulic motors, electrical and heat engines and pneumatic works; preparation of detail drawings of plans and specifications, and proper inspection, selection and tests of material used in construction. Instruction is also given in engineering and mining economy, finance and engineering jurisprudence. The state college of agriculture and the State Veterinary college, with the former Bellevue Medical college in New York city, are part of the University. The total number of students is 3,435, of whom 14 are from Cuba, 26 from China, 13 from the Argentine Republic, 10 from India, and 55 from 23 other foreign countries.

In mining instruction, the foremost university is Columbia; though the Michigan School of Mines and the School at Golden, Colorado, are disposed to dispute this. At Yale, Prof. John Hays Hammond (76), is expending a good sized fortune in building up a mining department of the Sheffield Scientific school, which he claims will shortly be made the peer of Columbia. The University of Utah is also making

strides toward building up a mining department, which is already winning for its management high encomiums.

NOT THE RELIGION OF JESUS.

The following observations by a contributor to the Railroad Telegrapher will commend themselves to the thoughtful reader:

"Most of us educated people, saturated with the fanaticism of all heathen religions, and those which we have inoculated in what we call Christianity, most of us are slaves, on which a formidable array of crooked perceptions have been written down. There is no room there for us to write any healthy thoughts, any high ideals of universal brotherhood, the kind preached by Jesus. * * * The prolongation of wrongs, both individual and social, the former produced by the latter, as the larger involves all the lesser ones, prove that humanity is yet under the sway and malignant influence of a complex and humanly manipulated Christianity, practically and fundamentally sweeping out of existence the simple and sublime Christianity of Jesus."

To recognize that we are steering in a wrong direction is a good beginning to a return to the right course. It is a necessary preliminary. The sooner the world realizes that a complete apostasy has taken place from the spiritual government of Jesus, the sooner we may hope for repentance and submission. The world, without the gospel of the Redeemer, is lost. Many of the honest in heart everywhere realize that fact.

A SERMONET FOR WORKERS

[For the "News" by H. J. Hapgood.]

Don't be in too much of a hurry to gain advancement. Impatience and greed never amount to anything that is worth while. I like to see a man plug along day by day, taking advantage of every opportunity offered, and keeping his eyes open for better things. But there is no hope for the chap who expects a raise every five minutes, and spends four minutes out of the five asking for one.

We once had a bookkeeper apply for a position who said he left his last place because advancement was too slow. Upon investigation it was found that he had been on the job only four days. I suppose if he figured that way he would expect to own half the business inside of a month or two.

Give your job a fair show. Don't make up your mind that there is no advancement until you are well qualified to judge. You cannot size up a position in a day or two and a hasty conclusion on such an important question often means a lost opportunity.

Many times a young man will give up a good position because he sees no advancement immediately before him. The advancement may be there but he is not able to recognize it.

Look twice and avoid making a false move.

Better novelists in politics than politics in novels.

Georgia now is as free from snakes as Ireland is.

The cold weather makes glad the heart of the ice man.

No foreign nobleman ever married an American girl who was poor.

The breakfast feeders so far have been unable to beat ham and eggs.

Prohibition

Notwithstanding their protest that prohibition does not hurt their business, notwithstanding the fact that internal revenue figures show increased sales of malt and spirituous liquors in 1907 over 1906, brewers, distillers, and wholesale liquor dealers are girding their loins. Never before has any one been able to make the "liquor interests" stand together on anything, but common danger has aroused about common interest. Brewers and distillers are shoulder to shoulder to dispute the open territory left to them. The brewers are especially active, and the brewers, among the large interests, are mainly responsible for the degradation of the American saloon, the small local brewers, that is not the big ones who ship their beer far away. As the brewers deal with the lighter and less harmful form of alcoholic beverages this bad leadership or influence bears the look of paradox. But the manufacturers and distributors of spirits, making an imperishable and comparatively concentrated product, are in only distant touch with the saloonkeeper, while the brewers, with their bulky and perishable goods, must maintain close touch. This contact with their customers, together with an impenetrable race for business among the brewers, has begotten a system to which many of the increasing evils of the saloon business are due. When a few years ago the saloonkeepers of Chicago made a declaration of their business as required by state law, 5,000 out of 8,000 stated that they were "agents for breweries." It is the consequent degradation which has driven "thinkers" away, and which is the cause of the prohibitionists for nothing is more certain about this "prohibition wave" than that it acquires its great strength not from pure hatred of strong drink, but from hostility to the system of distribution—the American saloon—Collier's Weekly.

When We Are Some men are pitched to minor key. They are always seeing snags ahead. They see tendencies in American life which are sure to undermine our democracy and end in revolution. Nothing is as used to be when they were young. They cannot get any more decent help. Everything is in a deplorable condition. It is a most unfortunate thing to get into such a mental habit. I know some of these people. Their letters are always pessimistic. They go through life like a tornado cloud, carrying blackness and threatening disaster wherever they go. Everything depends upon the way we look at things. Near these calamity howlers we find people living practically under the same conditions, who see beauty and increasing goodness, and an upward trend in civilization everywhere. What an antidote to forming a pessimistic habit of mind! It is a most unfortunate thing to get into such a mental habit. I know some of these people. Their letters are always pessimistic. 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