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## EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

### THE SCIENCE FACULTY.

On the 24th of February, 1893, the Engineering and Physics Buildings, erected through the munificence of W. C. McDonald, Esq., were declared to be formally open.

A large sum of money has been spent in the enterprise—large sums of money will still be required to keep the Buildings and Equipment in a proper state of maintenance, and it therefore seems a fitting occasion on which to recapitulate a few of the reasons which have justified the extraordinary development of the Faculty of Applied Science.

Consider what is expected from the graduate of Applied Science—what is his duty in life. He has to perform service of the grandest character—he has to see that all scientific knowledge is turned into useful channels, and that the forces of Nature are employed in the most scientific manner to serve the needs of man.

To do this work it is necessary that a man should possess certain special characteristics. He must, in the first place, be a true student—making himself thoroughly

conversant with the discoveries in Science—not only with those discoveries already made, but also with those which are being made day by day.

In the next place, he must know how to do work, and know also how work should be done. In other words, he must have learned the use of the hand. He must have had his observation so trained that no important fact shall be allowed to escape his attention.

Again, to be successful he must thoroughly acquaint himself with the needs of the world—he must be prepared for every kind of emergency, and should never hesitate to throw himself into work requiring original and inventive reasoning, even when the problems involved are abstruse and seemingly insolvable.

To produce characteristics such as these, it is generally admitted that a special training, having a scientific basis, is required, premising, of course, that the student has previously gone through a good general course of all-round mental education, which he will find of the utmost importance in his future life, as it will give him a degree of culture, perhaps unattainable by any other means. The special training should be such as may now be obtained in Engineering Schools such as ours.

The great advantage of being closely connected with the University cannot be too highly estimated. The studies of our Science Students comprise mathematics, physics, chemistry, strength of material, structural design, principles of mechanism, theory of heat, engines, practical hydraulics, applied electricity, surveying, drawing both geometrical and mechanical, and are pursued in a regular manner during the four years they remain at the University. Taken together, these studies afford a most liberal education, and may be supplemented by a professional training only to be obtained in an Engineering office or on actual works of construction.

The laboratory practice will train the student in the application of scientific principles to practical problems; and, further, he is given an opportunity of acquiring practical skill in carrying out experiments and in making investigations.

Amongst men thus trained may we not hope to find many who will do more than come up to the public ideal of a science graduate? Why should there not be those who will know, not only how to turn our scientific facts into useful channels, but who will themselves be able to contribute their share to the vast storehouse of the world's knowledge?

H. T. B.