

MEMORANDUM ON EFFECT OF STREET RAILWAYS

The trolleys which run along Prospect Street, New Haven, Conn. and carry the employees of the Winchester Firearms Co. pass near three buildings of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University. Two of these are used for lecture purposes; the third is used mainly as an office building with a laboratory on the second floor. I took a lecture course in one of these buildings (the old Chemical Laboratory) in 1915. The lectures were seriously interrupted by the noise of passing cars. Each time a car passed, one sentence of the lecture was lost, unless repeated by the professor.

I must add that the cars on Elm Street also pass near many Yale College Buildings, including dormitories, and a gymnasium. A few lecture rooms in the basement of one building (Wright Hall) are farther from the car line than the Sheffield rooms and there the noise is much less troublesome.

The work at the old Sloane Physics Laboratory on Library Street was greatly disturbed by cars on York Street. The most accurate optical work was done during a few hours at night when the cars were not running. It was quite useless to work with the large concave grating during the day. This and other experiences taught the physicists the serious limitations imposed by the car lines. As a result the new Sloane Physics Laboratory was built one-half mile from other University buildings for the express purpose of avoiding evils due to the car lines. It has been necessary to allow twenty minutes between lectures in consequence of this change.

Macdonald Physics Building,
McGill University.
April 15th, 1925.

J. Stuart Foster Ph.D.,

Assistant Professor of Physics