MESSENGER

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What Is Vacuum?

I F THE traffic policeman did not hold up his hand and control the automobiles and wagons and people there would be collisions, confusion, and but little progress in any direction. His business is to direct.

The physicist who tries to obtain a vacuum that is nearly perfect has a problem somewhat like that of the traffic policeman. Air is composed of molecules—billions and billions of them flying about in all directions and often colliding. The physicist's pump is designed to make the molecules travel in one direction—out through the exhaust. The molecules are much too small to be seen even with a microscope, but the pump jogs them along and at least starts them in the right direction.

A perfect vacuum would be one in which there is not a single free molecule.

For over forty years scientists have been trying to pump and jog and herd more molecules out of vessels. There are still in the best vacuum obtainable more molecules per cubic centimeter than there are people in the world, in other words, about two billion. Whenever a new jogging device is invented, it becomes possible to eject a few million more molecules.

The Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company have spent years in trying to drive more and more molecules of air from containers. The chief purpose has been to study the effects obtained, as, for example, the boiling away of metals in a vacuum.

This investigation of high vacua had unexpected results. It became possible to make better X-ray tubes—better because the X-rays could be controlled; to make the electron tubes now so essential in long-range wireless communication more efficient and trustworthy; and to develop an entirely new type of incandescent lamp, one which is filled with a gas and which gives more light than any of the older lamps.

No one can foretell what will be the outcome of research in pure science. New knowledge, new ideas inevitably are gained. And sooner or later this new knowledge, these new ideas find a practical application. For this reason the primary purpose of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company is the broadening of human knowledge.

General Electric
General Office Company Schenectady, N. Y.
New Curriculum for St. Stephens

Faculty Substitute New Courses for Old.

The present curriculum of St. Stephen's College was changed and added to at a faculty meeting held on December 20th, 1920. The new curriculum which was adopted by the Faculty and which is effective at once, is as follows:

One degree will be given by the college—the B. A. degree—for any one of three courses: literary, classical, or scientific. Each course has a humanistic and cultural background. The first two years of study are almost the same as under the older curriculum, but in the last two years of study men may specialize in the classes; in literature; history; sociology; or in laboratory science. The new course is designed primarily for those who want a strictly humanistic training and for those intending to enter the ministry. The scientific course is to provide a man with the necessary preparation for his entry into any postgraduate school of medicine, engineering, or mining. The literary course is to insure a sound preparation for any more technical training in law, business, or similar pursuits.

A man may easily change from course to course until the end of his sophomore year, after which he will find it difficult to do so. The new curriculum was adopted only after the most careful investigation and deliberation. The leading scientists have been consulted in regard to the scientific course. Further particulars will be printed in the catalogue to be issued in February.

Civic Federation's Bubble

"Look Before You Leap" Apparently Not Their Motto

A premature report of the National Civic Federation's report on Socialism in the Episcopal Church was "picked up and handed" to the "World," in time to appear in that newspaper on the morning of December 13th.

The report, which chiefly concerned us and for which everyone was extraordinarily anxious to read the "dailies," had to do with charges against President Bell. The National Civic Federation, after "careful" investigation, was ready to present to Bishop Burch a petition that he discipline the Reverend B. L. Bell. The report, however, was never presented to the bishop, who was very silent in regard to the whole matter.

Mr. Easley, who is Chairman of the federation's Executive Committee, said that the charges against Mr. Bell were made by members of his own denomination and as a direct result of the federation's inquiry. He denied, however, that he had any knowledge of the report to be submitted to Bishop of the Diocese.

Among the many charges against President Bell were the following: That he advocated that interests from investments and profits is immoral; that rent collecting is wrong; that those who couldn't see that social readjustments were coming were stupid; that rent collecting is wrong; that those who couldn't see that social readjustments were coming were stupid. It is true that I said the sociology of St. Paul was largely bosh. I think it is all poppycock. I cannot understand what they are doing. It looks like an attack on Christianity in my opinion. Bell's no more a Socialist than I am. Bell is an extremely able man, and his Americanism is perfectly sound. The Board of Trustees has absolute confidence in him.

In regard to the charges against Mr. Bell, Mr. Haley Fiske said: "It is all poppycock. I cannot understand what they are doing. It looks like an attack on Christianity in my opinion. Bell's no more a Socialist than I am. Bell is an extremely able man, and his Americanism is perfectly sound. The Board of Trustees has absolute confidence in him."

Last September the Trustees passed a resolution in regard to the Americanism of this college which we can at this time print. It was as follows:

RESOLVED, That the Trustees of St. Stephen's College express to the President and Faculty of the college their appreciation of the efficient work that has been done during the past year in the various departments of instruction and that especially commend the work done in those various departments of instruction.

The outbreak of the war, because he was convicted of being the Socialist, was among those who spent the week-end of December 18th.

Mrs. Martha Turney-High, of Kansas City, visited her son, Turney-High, who was away on Christmas on the campus.

Mrs. G. H. Kaltenbach is spending a few weeks with her son in Evanston, Ill.

Mrs. Upton was among those who spent Christmas on the campus.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Williams, Miss Mary Fowler, who was the guest of her brother, the Reverend Cuthbert Fowler, for the week-end of December 18th.

Christmas Party

On the evening of December 21st, the annual Christmas celebration took place. As is customary, the first half of the celebration took place in the chapel, and the second in President Hall.

From the chapel, the members of the faculty and the students, led by the marshals and their assistants, marched to the refectory, where all had dinner, accompanied by all the traditional Christmas customs of Old England.

There was a great procession, when Professor MacDonald, accompanied by page, marched in singing the "Boar's Head" Carol. Then the Socialists took the same song and sang it in English. The procession ended with a large procession of the students, who followed the procession of the plum pudding, and later on, the entrance of the Wassail Bowls, which no longer has the measure of importance it had in olden days, thanks to the Eighteenth Amendment.

Much merriment was caused by the gifts which had been placed at the plates of the members of the faculty. As each gift was announced, its hidden meaning was at once perceived by all, the professors, however, professoring ignorance. The affair closed by speeches from Dr. Shero, Dean; Major Prince, Colwell, and the President.

CAMPUS NOTES

Mr. J. Mitchell, of Salt Lake City, at present attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spent several days on the campus as the guest of Louis 24.

Dr. Lyford E. Edwards, Professor of Sociology, was taken to the Thompson House Hospital, with a severe attack of grippe on January 7. President Bell is taking charge of Dr. Edwards' classes while the latter is ill.
Bishop and leader, the Right Reverend Charles Burch, has lost his great College has been deprived of one of the most beautiful buildings in our history. There was a time when it seemed as though this college was on the verge of collapse. He loved the Church in which he was a leader and loved and was loved by all to whom he ministered. His love for Christ's Kingdom, of all do they brand him as a heretic.

We feel at an absolute loss to express our grief and sorrow over the death of our Bishop Burch. He was a true bishop, and a faithful sheep-bird of Christ's flock. He gave his life to the Church, and, by putting himself last and others first, worked loyally for the Christian Faith until his frame collapsed. He loved the Church in which he was a leader and loved and was loved by all to whom he ministered. His love for Christ's Kingdom, of all do they brand him as a heretic.

We could print indefinitely what the Civic Federation is and what we are not, but for one thing. Mr. Easley, Chairman of the Federation's Executive Committee, now disavows in the public press his authorization of the attack on us and our President. Brother Wheeler does the same thing. If the idea of the report was "not to hurt the college" or "President will permit me to see what the true function and purpose of the report was. Without any argument at all the supporters of our opposing party have "backed down." If they had stayed around long enough to put their signatures to the report prepared for the bishop of the Diocese, perhaps we could have added to our endurance fund by the reappoints from a libel suit. Mr. Haley Fiske said it was all "poppycock" and it was. It was a pretty bubble while it lasted, but it did not last long.

However, to Messrs. Easley, Wheeler, and Thompson, we owe a vote of thanks. Through their efforts St. Stephen's College has become known to many who never knew her before. She has through this fine system of free advertising been brought to the attention of those who will help her and support her from now on. We are now looking for some other bright thing which will give us another fine boost such as this charge of Mr. Easley and Company has given us.

CHapel notes.

The Reverend Charles Lathrop, D.D., now Secretary of the Social Service Department of the Episcopal Church, preached in the college chapel on the morning of December 19th.

We have received from the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, in New York, a beautiful set of festal altar hangings for the chapel. The work on the frontal, especially, is very well done, and the church is greatly enriched by the material and the general appearance of the chancel.
Moans from the Lyre Tree

Warned.

Clergyman (who has sat down next to slightly intoxicated man)—"Do you allow a drunk on this car?"

Conductor (low voice)—"It's all right as long as you don't get noisy."—Gargoyle.

Another Ford Joke.

"Why are school-teachers like Ford cars?"

"Because they give the most service for the least money."—Life.

The Bugamist.

A June bug married an angleworm; An accident cut her in two.

They charged the bug with bigamy;

Now what could the poor thing do?

—Punch Bowl.

The Nightly Line.

Teacher—"What, Oscar, is the Ancient Order of the Bath?"

Young Oscar (puzzled)—"I dunno; Johnny usually comes first, then Willie, then the baby."—Life.

Why He Waves His Arms.

Mrs. Sheridan says the Lenin gesticulates when using the telephone. Perhaps, as with us, it arouses feelings that cannot be expressed in words.—London Opinion.

Think It Over.


Lowbrow—I would, but what's the use? They won't go straight.—Tiger.

What He Said.

Professor—"So, sir, you said that I was a learned jackass, did you?"

Freshie—"No, sir, I merely remarked that you were a burro of information."—Boston Transcript.

You Miss Out.

"Why should girls who sell gloves make good mothers?"

"Well, why?"

"Because they are used to handling kids."—Jester.

Wrong Sign.

A farmer hitched his team to a telephone-pole.

"Here," exclaimed a policeman, "you can't hitch there!"

"Can't hitch!" shouted the irate farmer.

"Well, why does the sign say, 'Fine for Hitching'?"—The Catholic News.

Logic at Work.

Teacher—Thomas, will you tell me what a conjunction is, and compose a sentence containing one?"

Thomas (after reflection)—"A conjunction is a word connecting anything, such as ‘The horse is hitched to the fence by his halter.’ Halter’ is a conjunction, because it connects the horse and the fence."—Harper’s Bazar.

One Difficulty.

"I thought there was a movement in your town for all the churches to merge into one."

"There is."

"What’s the delay?"

"They can’t decide which one."—Life.

"Say It With Flowers."

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