

school education, when he enters business, he is obliged to begin at the bottom of the ladder without knowledge of many things that the farm boy has learned in connection with his daily home life.

To my mind this is the fundamental reason why boys brought up on the farm appear to make better successes in their after business life than do city boys who have not had the advantages of a similar business training in their earlier days.

President White, of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company, in discussing the effect of life on the farm, says:

It is preeminently, in my judgment, an experience which develops independence and self-reliance and, therefore, I think, the spirit of achievement, more than any other I know of.

Another railroad president remarks:

I believe that farm life lays a good and broad foundation for a healthy, vigorous manhood in both mind and body.

Another noted railway man, who never spent a day on the farm, says:

I am inclined to think boys brought up on the farm have better constitutions and are less liable to temptations.

President L. W. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, says:

My present home is on a farm and my principal reason for making my home there, rather than at some of the lakes or in the city, is that I have three boys of my own I am trying to give a fair start in life. I believe there is no end of arguments that living on the farm gives the best chance for a growing boy. While my making the farm my home sometimes works an inconvenience to me, I realize that the benefits to my children are well worth the inconvenience to me of getting in and out between my office and the farm.

I have always contended that the value of farm rearing lies in the fact that on the farm there is a chance to place responsibility on the growing boy. I firmly believe that it is possible to work out a system of education that will give our schools all the advantages of the farm life. This is being done, to a certain extent, in the cities, and I believe that this fact has something to do with the increasing number of strong men who come from the city. But I must admit that the actual data on this subject are very meager and I join Dr.

Woods in the hope that some careful student will give this question the investigation which its importance demands. W. J. SPILLMAN

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#### DOCTORATES CONFERRED BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

I REGRET to find that several errors were made in compiling the statistics of the doctorates conferred by American universities (SCIENCE for August 20). The number of degrees conferred by Wisconsin was sixteen (not seven), of which four were in the sciences. There were five degrees (not three) in geology conferred by Yale with geology as the major subject. On page 266, column 2, line 4, Michigan should be substituted for Washington. The assistant who compiled the data is not without excuse for these errors; for example, in the case of Wisconsin the doctorates conferred are given in two different places on the commencement program without any cross references. But I regret the occurrence of errors in statistics which I believe have hitherto been free from them.

J. MCKEEN CATTELL

#### THE NOMENCLATORIAL COURT

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Some weeks ago Mr. Francis N. Balch called attention in the columns of SCIENCE to the need of a court for determination of questions in zoological nomenclature. It appears that the International Congress of Zoologists has appointed a Nomenclature Commission of which Dr. C. W. Stiles, of Washington, is secretary, which performs the functions of such a court although its work is still far from being well developed or appreciated.

It appears that the International Congress has not made any appropriation for the expenses of this court whose labors have hitherto been carried on as a work of love. As the business before the court has accumulated the need of a paid clerk becomes urgent. As I understand the International Congress has no means of raising funds for the carrying on of the business of its committee, it is obviously the duty of those who most directly profit by the activities of the committee to pay a tax