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## Editor and Advisory Board

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## SCIENCE BULLETIN

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### THE APOLOGY OF A PEDAGOGUE EDITORIAL

"The world's stock of knowledge is seldom augmented by pedagogues."  
H. L. Mencken.

With all due respect to the author of the above and the several brilliant things he has written, bosh! The sentence makes interesting reading, and doubtless returned the writer several cents per word, besides giving his doting henchmen many chuckles at the expense of the puerile pedagogue. But mere pertness of expression connotes neither truth nor profundity, and had the writer of the above sentence set about deliberately to formulate a fundamental untruth, he could not have fashioned one whose Munchausen quality was more obtrusively obvious.

"Take physics or metaphysics, as you please," he challenges. Very well, what have professors of physics contributed? What about pedagogue Helmholtz? Born under the very shadow of Potsdam, he should fit our critic's racial qualifications, but let us judge him on performance alone. This pedagogue practically founded physiological optics, invented the ophthalmoscope, without which the oculist would be sadly crippled, and did more for acoustics than any other man.

Hertz, another pedagogue, discovered a method of detecting and receiving electromagnetic waves which had already been theretically postulated by pedagogue, Clark Maxwell. These two contributions are the very basis of our present day wireless and radio. Pedagogue, Sir Isaac Newton, gave us the laws of motion and the theory of gravitation, and the discoveries of Faraday made possible the magneto and dynamo. Roentgen gave us the X-rays, Dalton the theory

of the atom, and Thompson, Lorenz, and Rutherford have produced the electron, and elucidated the intimate structure of matter.

The pedagogue seldom contributes? What about Einstein and relativity; Michelson and stellar measurement; Milliken and short wave lengths; Currie and radium?

Look at the field of chemistry and note the contributions of the humble pedagogue. Mendeleef with his periodic law; Arrhenius with his theory of electrolytic dissociation; Berthelot with his synthesis of fats; Fischer with his work on proteins; McCollom with his contributions to dietetics; Kekule with his discovery of the secret of the carbon ring upon which has hinged three-fourths of the advance of organic chemistry.

Turn to the field of biology. Who doesn't know of pedagogue Pasteur and his studies in bacteriology and immunity, the very essence of our modern treatment of disease? How many thousands have been grateful to pedagogue Bordet for his diphtheria antitoxin; to pedagogue Lister for his antiseptic surgery; to pedagogue Ehrlich for his salvarsan?

"The world's stock of knowledge is seldom augmented by pedagogues?" When the writer of that sentence looks up at the stars and planets, their ways have been made known to him by Copernicus and Galileo and Kepler, all pedagogues. When he reflects why the moon hangs in space and flies neither off at a tangent nor comes crashing into the earth with cataclysmal momentum, his mind is set at rest by pedagogue Newton. Also, he calls up his publisher over pedagogue Bell's telephone; sends a wire by the telegraph of pedagogues Henry and Morse, and pays his electric bills in the Volt-Amperes of two more of the tribe! His very anatomy has been elucidated by a thousand carving carnivorous pedagogues from Galen to Vesalius to Cuvier. Even his anatomical topography is designated by professorial appellation, and daily he carries about with him—and in spite of him—his Eustachian tubes, his Malpighian corpuscles, his Columns of Bertini, and his Bowman's capsules. Pedagogue Claude Bernard gave him his knowledge of his gastric and pancreatic juices, of the gly-