PROFESSORS AT OUTS

Former Teacher of Chemistry Seeks Revenge.

HE DEFAMES HIS RIVAL.

Then, with Prudent Foresight, Sails for Europe.

Dr. Wheeler Discovers a Saccharine Substance Which May Prove to Be of Value.

For two years the name of E. A. Schneider appeared on the books of the University of Chicago as assistant professor of analytical chemistry.

Last fall his contract with the University closed and he terminated his connection with it, to the great relief of most of the members of the department. But the professor did not take the severance of his relations with the university kindly and has just executed his grand coup for revenge.

It consisted in this: He made a typewritten compilation of extracts from criticisms of the published writings of Professor Nef, head of the department at Chicago, by writers of an opposing school, and sent them to the students in chemistry at the university, and presumably to others throughout the United States. Then, remembering the fate of him who fights and runs away, he hastily embarked for Germany. Accompanying the list of extracts is this note:

This compilation is for the benefit of those who desire to take a course in chemistry at the University of Chicago. Chemistry, like most professions, is nowadays over-crowded, and only those who have a thorough all-round training have a chance of success in practical life. It is a well-known fact that at the University of Chi-

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cago the main stress is laid on [illegible] chemistry, a branch of the science for which there is little demand in the United States. Moreover the entire staff of teachers in the chemical department consists of specialists in organic chemistry.

"The young gentlemen who have read these opinions are advised to consider the question whether a recommendation given by Mr. Nef is likely to have much weight with other chemists. In Europe Mr. Nef is evidently unfavorably known, in the United States practically unknown, as his publications appear in foreign journals.

"E. A. SCHNEIDER."

Opinions of the Students.

Professor Nef was unwilling to discuss the letter, but the advanced students in the department were ready to talk.

From the general expression of opinion from students who have studied in all the larger universities of this country and many of them in Germany, a Nef anthology could easily be compiled. Mr. Nef is a genial, unassuming man, without any touch of the academician about him, and is very popular even among those who do not take his courses.

Of the various science departments, chemistry leads in point of numbers. Professor Nef has eighteen pupils, all of whom are taking the most advanced work for a doctor's degree. Where Schneider is known his letter will react in favor of Professor Nef and his teachings, and where he is not it will receive the fate usually accorded anonymous communications.

"This move," said a student in chemistry, "was not wholly unexpected. Schneider showed a very ugly temper last fall, and made several threats then. I believe there was some thought of binding him over to keep the peace. It is now an open secret that he was asked to resign at the end of the first year, but refused and hung on another year by reason of a contract which he had with the university."

Saccharine Discovery of Dr. Wheeler.

While Schneider was seeking vengeance, one of Professor Nef's students, Dr. Henry L. Wheeler, formerly of Yale, and a resident of this city, at No. 1812 Prairie avenue, was making a discovery of a substance sweeter than the saccharine which was found in Professor Remsen's laboratory at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Wheeler guards his secret rather carefully; in fact, he is developing the old sleuth habit of twisting his eyes so as to see behind him without turning his head.

The product is a new compound made from coal tar. It is yellow in color and not easily soluble in water. A piece put in the mouth does not yield up its sweetness quickly, but the taste stays by one for hours. Dr. Wheeler will have it tested by an expert on poisons to see if it is harmless, and then thinks it may be found serviceable commercially. As it also has the flavor of licorice, he thinks it may be used instead of molasses and licorice in the preparation of the delectable plug tobacco

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The more I think over the matter of my private laboratory the more I see that it is quite essential that I move into the room now occupied by the English department. I spoke about this to Dr. Harper at the Convocation, but I would like to have an understanding ~~about it~~ which is quite definite before matters are entirely disposed of. In regard to qualitative and quantitative work, I ~~had the understanding~~ thought it settled that Lengfeld and Stieglitz were to take charge of those branches, but that I was to have direction of all of the inorganic work. I think that it is essential to a uniform course that one plan should be carried out throughout the entire inorganic course. This would not take much of my time after we have a good start as ~~the men~~ L. and S. will then go on without any interference on my part, but I should want to have authority to settle disputed points and to change matters if they were not going satisfactorily. What is needed is a good strong preparatory course and to have this unity is necessary.

The more I think over the matter of my private

lecture, the more I see that it is quite essential that I move into the

room now occupied by the English department. I spoke about this to Dr. Turner

at the conversation. He I would like to have an understanding ~~about~~ which

is quite definite before matters are entirely discussed. In regard to the lectures

and undergraduate work, I ~~see the advantage~~ that would be strenuous

to take charge of some lectures but think I was to have direction of all of

the undergraduate work. I think that it is essential, of course that one

plan should be carried out throughout the entire undergraduate course. This would

not take much of my time after we have a good start as ~~we will~~ then go on

without any interference on my part, but I should want to have authority to settle

disputed points and to change matters if they were not quite satisfactory.

What is needed is a very strong preparatory course and to have this unity is

necessary.

My scheme for a medical preparatory course would include, among other things, such as the languages, the following;

1st. year- Physics(mechanics, sound, light and electricity).

2nd. year- Gen. Chemistry, Biology.

3rd. year- Anal. chemistry, Organic Chem. lectures, Biology.

4th. year- Organic preps. Biology.

Enough elective space should be left to allow the student to work in some advanced chemistry if he wants to, or to let him specialize in biology, histology, anatomy or some other line. Our medical men here all agree that, as the profession of medicine now stands, a man cannot have too much chemical training. In pharmacology alone he must be able to follow through the chemistry of the new synthetical preparations and in urinary analysis he has need of first class training in chemistry. Lombard has told me that he wishes he had more chemistry and Vaughan and Cushny both have chemical laboratories. Dr. Dock the professor of theory and practice here did some work on the occurrence of aceto-acetic acid in the urine last year which took a good deal of chemical work.

I am progressing on my type writer so well that I can write as fast as with pen and ink, and soon I hope to be able to beat the record It is a great deal easier than the old way.

Very cordially yours,

Paul C. Freer

My scheme for a medical preparatory course would include, among other things, such as the languages, the following:

1st. year- Physics (mechanics, sound, light and electricity).

2nd. year- Gen. Chemistry, Biology.

3rd. year- Anal. chemistry, Organic Chem. lectures, Biology.

4th. year- Organic Chem., Biology.

Enough elective space should be left to allow the student to work in some advanced chemistry if he wants to, or to let him specialize in biology, histology, anatomy or some other line. Our medical men here all agree that, as the practice of medicine now stands, a man cannot have too much chemical training. In physiology alone he must be able to follow through the chemistry of the new synthetical preparations and in urinary analysis he has need of first class training in chemistry. Lommard has told me that he wishes he had more chemistry and Vaughan and Cherry both have chemical laboratories. Dr. Dock the professor of theory and practice here did some work on the occurrence of aceto-acetic acid in the urine last year which took a good deal of chemical work.

I am progressing on my type writer so well that I can write as fast as with pen and ink, and soon I hope to be able to beat the record. It is a great deal easier than the old way.

Very cordially yours,

[illegible]

Dr W.R. Harper

I enclose part of a letter from P.C. Freer. It does look as if something might be done with him. In taking, as he offers, general physical and analytical chemistry he takes the undergraduate work chiefly. I think a division might be made, leaving the graduate work in my charge and the undergraduate work in Freer's charge. I should not object to any such arrangement but I should object, and I imagine you would too, to making my promotion conditional on Freer's promotion. You will see that the salary element is the chief consideration in Freer's case as I saw long ago.

I should be pleased to hear an expression of opinion from you on the subject. Yours very sincerely

J M Vet

Your letter of June 28 has been here for some days but I haven't answered because I wanted to think matters over. The salaries in this place are to be raised after Sept 1st so the regents have decided, the difference between salaries here and in Chicago will then — or, I haven't any faith in the promise that salaries will be raised there within a year. It all depends on Harper raising the money, & he has had the greatest difficulty in getting the last million he hasn't collected it yet for that matter.

I am going to have a leave of absence next year will go to Leipzig & study with Ostwald & when I return I will develope a dept of physical chemistry with an assistant Prof at the head. I sent you a reprint of some work done in that line. The work of physical chemistry in this country is very low

to a dept of it should be started at Chicago
Now if Harper will undertake to give me
a year abroad after the laboratory is started
at Chicago and will do what I hope
the regents of this univ will do for me
i.e. let my salary be paid to me
during my absence, I will be willing
to go there to take charge of the
work in gen phys & gen medical
chemistry provided he fixes it so that
this will lead to a 7000 $
salary when the univ is able to
pay both of us such a sum.
I would then undertake to do good
research in physics & math chem
I would like awfully well, as I says,
to be in a lab. with you the two of
us could bring all branches of chem
up to the highest standard but I
am so well fixed here that I
can't leave without good
inducements.

Ann Arbor, _____ 189____

I got the last 100 grains (be had) from him this Fall. — Perhaps I can raise 25 grains (more) for you from Vaughan — I'll see Tomorrow.

I would have enjoyed seeing Dr Harper's face when he got your letter — You did just right — if we were compelled to run exactly another such a laboratory as they have in all of the other institutions in this country it would have taken all of the fun out of it — Let me know what Dr Harper says as soon as you can —

Yours most cordially,

R. C. Freer.

Ann Arbor, _____ 189____

Round-trip ticket for $90 - a great saving. I am told it is a good line, but it lands you in Liverpool. Am under the weather again and longing to get out and breathe for a while.

Cordially yours,

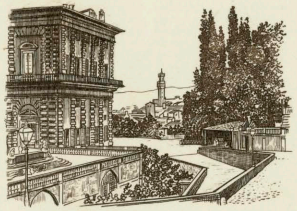
P. C. Freer.

In regard to what I wrote to you in my last, could you straighten matters up as soon as possible? Dr Harper told me that all would be officially settled by Feb 1st but as yet no action has apparently been taken. I need to know definitely at once however, because I must make out my order for apparatus and chemicals for next year here and get it off as soon as possible. I can't help thinking but that Dr Harper will see the reasonableness of our position and straighten matters out all right in the end. It would be a great disappointment if everything fell through finally. I notice that the ad. Bd. acad. coll. only requests a best course in chem "if possible" — that looks as if they would not insist.

Please let me know as soon as possible —

Yours most cordially,

P C Freer.



Florence
June 11th

Dr. John Mason Neale
Dear Sir

I hope
to be in Munich about
June 15th Hotel Bellevue
If I change my plans
I will telegraph you
to come to Venice shall
be there next Monday
Hotel Victoria
Truly yours J. H. Newman

Dr. Cowles, Dear Sir:
will be at Dr Hall's house
by 3 P.M.

J U Nef

CLARK UNIVERSITY,
WORCESTER, MASS.

Sunday Noon.

Dear Dr. Nef:—

I did not finish my conversation with you yesterday as I would like. I wish very much to say something more, and which I think you will be glad to know.

I shall be at Dr Hall's house until about 4 o'clock this afternoon, and if you can conveniently come here

at or before 3 o'clock
I shall be very glad to
see.

Very truly Yrs
Edward Cowles

PURDUE UNIVERSITY,
LAFAYETTE, IND.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM.

Venice June 16

Dr. Nef:

Dear Sir:

I find that it will be inconvenient for me to come to Munich and I discover this too late to ask you to come here. I shall however, be at the Falls of the Rhine (Neuhausen) Hotel Schweizerhof Sunday evening or Monday morning Sept. Shall be glad to see you there. I have written you so many times that I feel somewhat acquainted with you and I venture to ask a favor of you should you conclude to come to Neuhausen

Ever

If, as is possible, you
have the same constitutional
no. of stipositing a
than you will I am sure
not try to set the jinling.

L M

PURDUE UNIVERSITY,
LAFAYETTE, IND.
PRESIDENT'S ROOM

I want to buy a set of garnet jewelry for my wife and I am told that Munich is a good place in wh. to buy it. I want something small, neatly set with quite small ear drops. Nothing long or large. Could you without too much trouble bring me two or three sets "on approval"? I am told that I ought to get something from 60 to 100 francs. If this will in any way trouble you do not do it.

If I change my ticket I will telegraph you Saturday Next.

Very Truly
E. J. Ward

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