TECHNOLOGY REVIEW







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THE TABULAR VIEW

DANIEL C. SAYRE'S knowledge of the aeronautical vulgate derives not from academic, philological meditation, but from actual experience on the flying fields of the land. Professor Sayre wants it expressly understood that he is not a modock, a dodo, or a kewee, but a full-fledged, licensed pilot. Furthermore, he never affects elegant boots and only occasionally a béret, nor does he call himself a pilote. As an intrepid birdman in his own plane, he has gone cross-countrying, daisy clipping, and hedge hopping when not teaching in the Institute's Department of Aeronautics. He holds both a bachelor's degree ('23) and a master's degree from the Institute, and is, of course, numbered among The Review's Contributing Editors.

WILSON COMPTON, brother of Karl T. and Arthur H. Compton, is the third member of this well-known family to contribute to The Review. Unlike his brothers, Wilson Compton has not identified himself with the world of physical science, turning his efforts rather to economics. He was born in Wooster, Ohio, receiving his bachelor's degree from Wooster College. Later he went to the University of Cincinnati, where he obtained his A.M. and Ph.D. in 1912 and 1915. His formal education was completed at the Hamilton College of Law in Chicago in 1917, after taking a position for a year as Assistant Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College. Although his activities are many and varied, his dominating interest is his work as Secretary and General Manager of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, with which organization he has been connected since 1918. The article on "Opportunities for Technically Trained Men in the Wood Industries" was originally presented as an address before the Combined Professional Societies recently at M. I. T. The wood industry, suddenly faced with the perplexing problem of present-day competition, looks to science as the way out of its difficulties, for, through the application of scientific and engineering methods, a more intelligent use of the resources of logging and silviculture are made possible, enabling an old industry to retain a good part of its former supremacy despite change. The new motto "Grow forests with an axe" is indicative of the new spirit needed. Readers interested in supplementary information should consult The Review for December, 1930. In the Trend of Affairs section of that issue is a discussion of the lumber situation; in particular, the shifting timber supply. Still further information may be obtained from the National Lumber Manufacturers Association.

IN these days of biography it is surprising that Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, has escaped the widespread attention which his merits deserve, for this modern world is quick to hail heroes of science and eager to know the inside story of their achievements. The highlights of the amazing life of this man of sci-(Continued on page 60)



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THE TABULAR VIEW

(Concluded from page 58)

ence, whose interests included all the world, is most entertainingly told by Mr. RICHARD W. HALE in his article on page 71. Those who would know more of Count Rumford than can be given in the space of a magazine article may be interested in reading "The Works of Rumford," published by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. CMr. Hale was for one year a member of the Class of 1891, transferring from Technology to Harvard, where he received his A.B. in 1892 and his LL.B. in 1895. Since then, he has practiced law in Boston, where he is senior partner of Hale and Dorr and Treasurer of the Old South Forum. Mr. Hale's article was originally issued by him as a private imprint at Christmas time, 1927. It also appeared in the New England Quarterly for October, 1928. We are grateful to its editors and to Mr. Hale for permission to republish in The Review. It is pertinent to note that the Academy of Arts and Sciences, established by Rumford through a gift of \$5,000 to the Academy in 1796, recently presented to President Compton the Rumford medal, awarded to authors of the most important discoveries or useful improvements in light and heat in any part of North America or in any of the American islands.

ROFESSOR NORBERT WIENER is on leave from the Institute, where he has been connected with the Mathematics Department since 1919, and is now in England to confer with the outstanding mathematicians of that country. He was born in Missouri and educated in the East, receiving his A.B. from Tufts, his A.M. and Ph.D. from Harvard, and he has studied abroad. Mathematics and logic are his specialties, but Professor Wiener is more than a specialist confined to one interest, being one of those rare individuals with talents in many directions. To him mathematics is art, as he explains in an article written for the January Review in 1929.
Professor TENNEY L. DAVIS, also on leave, is traveling and studying abroad in the interests of chemistry and its history. He is of the Class of 1913 at M. I. T. and holds a master's and doctor's degree from Harvard University. He has been associated with the Chemistry Department at the Institute since 1919. **(FRANK A. THAS, '28, is** Mechanical Superintendent of the Hamilton Watch Co.

I N the October issue, page 48, The Review listed architects, engineers, and contractors of the new physics and chemistry building and the spectroscopic laboratory. This list, unfortunately, was ambiguous with respect to the functions of these various parties. We take pleasure in presenting the following corrected statement. The architects and engineers for the spectroscopic laboratory are: Chas. T. Main, Inc., also engineers for the chemistry and physics building. The general contractor for the buildings is Stone and Webster, Inc., and the actual construction work has been in the hands of the Scully Company. Coolidge and Carlson are the architects for the physics and chemistry building. he King's Penance



In December, 1170, Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas ă Becket was foully murdered before the altar in Canterbury Cathedral by henchmen of King Henry II. In vain Henry fasted, wept, denied responsibility. God-fearing bishops, clerics and laymen, knowing that the death of Saint Thomas occurred after hasty words uttered by the King; knowing also, that it followed years of bitter controversy between Henry and Becket on questions of Church versus State privilege, doubted his sincerity, thirsted for his excommunication.

Back in Normandy, after the conquest of Ireland (undertaken at this time partly to escape visits from papal legates), amid his dissension-ridden French provinces, Henry found himself still in bad odor with the church, ardently desired reconciliation. At Avranches he buried his pride, met legates of Pope Alexander III, before whom he swore to innocence of the murder, and as penance for his angry words promised many concessions. To complete his submission he secretly vowed a final humiliation.

As TIME, had it been published July 16, 1174, would have reported subsequent events:

Idle onlookers at the gateway of the town of Canterbury last week watched weary travellers plodding barefooted toward the great Cathedral. Object: to visit the shrine of the late Archbishop, Thomas à Becket, sainted martyr of the Roman Catholic Church.

Bloodstained footprints in the dust behind him drew the attention of the bystanders to one pilgrim in particular. Ruddy, square-jawed, freckle faced, noble in mien, though in the garb of a penitent, he made his way thru the dusty street of Canterbury followed by a crowd of the curious, who soon knew him to be his most gracious Majesty, Henry II, King of England, Duke of Normandy, Count of Anjou, Maine and Touraine, Count of Poitou, Duke of Aquitaine, suzerain lord of Britanny.

Up the steps of Canterbury Cathedral, into the vaulted silence they followed. King Henry straightway descended into the crypt, threw himself at the foot of the sepulchre of Saint Thomas, where he lay prostrate with outstretched arms, bitterly groaning, weeping, the while Gilbert Foliot, Bishop of London ascended the pulpit and addressed the multitude.

Eloquent, he adjured them to believe the King's assertions of his innocence of the murder of Becket and to accept this humiliating penance as proof of his regret for the passionate expression which had led to the crime, albeit unintentionally. The expression: "Will none of the cowards who eat my bread, rid me of this turbulent priest," uttered shortly before the murder to a group of courtiers.

Not yet content, burly King Henry repaired to the Chapter House, where were assembled eighty monks and bishops. Here he stripped, bent his bare shoulders, received from each monk three, from each bishop five stinging lashes with a monastic rod.

Bruised and bleeding he returned to the shrine, fasted, and watched the night thru, at dawn took horse to London where he arrived next day. His Majesty is still confined to his bed. . . .

Cultivated Americans, impatient with cheap sensationalism and windy bias, turn increasingly to publications edited in the historical spirit. These publications, fair-dealing, vigorously impartial, devote themselves to the public weal in the sense that they report what they see, serve no masters, fear no groups.



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THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

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TRANSATLANTIC 82 European Scientific and Engineering Affairs . From a photograph BY RITTASE

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From a photograph by Harris and Ewing, taken at the time of Dr. Stratton's accession to the Presidency of M. I. T. (1923)

SAMUEL WESLEY STRATTON July 18, 1861 – October 18, 1931

For an extended account of Dr. Stratton's life and his great contributions to science, industry, and to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, see page 84