

A Sketch of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.; Including the List of Trustees and Faculty from the foundation, and a more particular account of the Scientific Department. By Charles F. Himes, Ph.D., Professor of Natural Science. Illustrated by Engravings and Photographs executed in the Laboratory. Harrisburgh: Lane S. Hart. 1879.

This admirable sketch of Dickinson College has, we feel assured, been a labor of love on the part of its author, who is a member of its faculty. Dickinson College is one of the oldest in the country, having been founded in the year 1783, just at the close of the war which secured the independence of the American colonies; and its history is closely associated with the development of higher education in America. Prof. Himes' historical sketch traces the progress of the college under the administrations of successive presidents, down to the present time. Of particular interest is the portion devoted to the Scientific Department. The college had, from the very first, taken cordial interest in this branch of learning, and was among the first to break away from the time-honored, inflexible, classical curriculum, by early establishing a course of scientific instruction parallel with the old classical one, leaving the student the option of selecting the one or the other after a certain grade in the collegiate course was reached. The wisdom of this policy has been fully shown in the steady growth in importance of the scientific department, which to-day is in a highly satisfactory condition. To meet the urgent needs of this branch of the college, which has expanded beyond the facilities that the present buildings afford, an earnest effort has been placed on foot, by the energetic head of the department, to secure its enlargement by the erection of a new building specially adapted for the purpose, and fitted with the most approved means, appliances and apparatus for scientific instruction and investigation. This effort is in a fair way to succeed, and the friends of the college will most probably witness its realization when the centennial anniversary of the institution is celebrated in the year 1883.

The friends and alumni of "old Dickinson" will find Prof. Himes' sketch of the college highly interesting, as it is the only connected history of the institution, so far as we know, that has ever been attempted.

The book forms a duodecimo volume of 155 pages. It is handsomely printed in first-class style, and contains a number of photographs of the buildings, the earlier presidents, and of some historical apparatus of Priestley. A number of these are very creditable platinotypes executed in the college laboratory, and make a handsome appearance. The book should be in the hands of every friend and alumnus of the college.

The Leffel Mechanical News. A Journal of Manufacturing, Engineering, Milling and Mining. Published twice a month. Springfield, O., James Leffel & Co. Price \$1 a year.

We are pleased to notice any evidences of substantial prosperity in any of our technical contemporaries, and take special pleasure in calling attention to the recent improvements made in our old acquaintance, *Leffel's Mechanical News*, which for years has been a welcome visitor among our exchanges. The publishers of this practical mechanical journal have given it a new dress of type, a new and attractive heading, and present it to subscribers with an increased number of pages and neatly pasted and cut. The *News* will make its appearance hereafter twice a month instead of once, as heretofore. We congratulate the publishers on the improved appearance of their useful and readable paper.

The Mechanical Engineer. An illustrated paper, devoted to Applied Mechanics and the Arts. Published semi-monthly, by Egbert P. Watson & Son, 5 Beekman street, New York.

The *Mechanical Engineer* is one of the latest candidates for public favor in the field of technical journalism. We have glanced over its pages with the curiosity that a new comer always excites, and have formed a very favorable opinion of its merits. Its articles, communications and editorials are eminently practical and useful in character, and the make-up of the journal very attractive. The subscription price of the *Mechanical Engineer* is \$2 a year. We wish it the success its merit deserves.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

A Lecture on the Progress of the Works of Completion of the New improved Bed of the Danube at Vienna, and the Lessons Taught thereby; together with a description of the Catastrophe

produced by the Ice Gorge of 1880. By Sir Gustave Wex, Imperial Royal Ministerial Counsellor and Chief Director of the Improvement of the Danube at Vienna. With five sheets of drawings. Translated by G. Weitzel, Major of Engineers, Bvt.-Maj. U. S. Army. Washington: Government Print. 1881.

American Society of Civil Engineers. Instituted 1852. Transactions. The Strongest of the Bronzes. A Newly Discovered Alloy of Maximum Strength. By Robert H. Thurston, Member of the Society. Read January 5th, 1881.

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