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GROWTH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

A New Building for the Physical Laboratory—What It Costs to Educate a Student for One Year in the Different Universities—Interesting Statistics.

The extraordinary growth of the university in the past two years has produced such an over-crowded condition in all departments that the erection of a new building has become absolutely necessary to relieve the stress now existing and provide for the increase in the next two years. After carefully canvassing the situation and the immediate needs of the various departments the faculty by a unanimous vote recommended that a Physical Laboratory to cost \$75,000 should be the next building erected. This is to be built so as to provide for future growth and also to provide temporary quarters for the departments of Meteorology, Astronomy, and Experimental Psychology so as to relieve the congested condition of the Library and Nebraska Hall.

Since the establishment of the department of Physics in 1888, the number of students, the apparatus, equipment, etc., has increased several fold. In 1888 there were forty students in the department and only one instructor. In addition to Physics he also had charge of the Meteorological Service and Physics in the experiment Station, Astronomy and the course in applied electricity.

The department was housed in different buildings on the campus, including the Chemical Laboratory, The Main Building and Nebraska Hall. This was

intended by the Regents to be only a temporary arrangement and the quarters were recognized as being entirely unsuited for laboratory purposes being situated on the attic and basement floors. Much difficulty was experienced in co-ordinating the work efficiently with the two floors dividing it. The proposal to vacate two stories in the Main Building was not deemed feasible and it was thought best to wait until a new building properly constructed for laboratory and lecture work could be obtained.

The guiding principle in the earlier development was the belief that the technical side of the subject should be developed more rapidly to meet the urgent needs of students desiring to pursue Applied Electricity and finally resulted in establishing of a finely equipped engineering laboratory and a separate department. After repeated requests the department was finally relieved of the Meteorological Service by the establishment of the present station at Lincoln. Shortly afterwards the astronomical work was also transferred to a separate department and the preparatory work in Physics was discontinued. During this period of development, the department proper has shared its resources and energies with these allied subjects and has in turn been frequently inconveniently ac-

commodated by the other scientific departments.

At the first opening of laboratory work there were about 40 students. The highest registration since then has been 450 which represents all students in allied subjects for which the department was responsible including the preparatory. During the past year the registration in the subject proper has reached 350 in the college courses alone, or 100 per cent more in these classes than at the time of the highest registered number referred to above. This is the largest registration in Physics in college work of any institution west of Cornell University (N. Y.)

A comparison of the numbers and the provisions of some of the universities will show at once the immediate need of adequate accommodations for this department.

The University of Ohio with less than half the number of students has asked for \$125,000 for a new building and the legislature recently passed a bill appropriating \$200,000 for the erection of new buildings to provide for the Physics and Law departments. The University of Minnesota with only a third as many students recommended a \$75,000 building for Physics while Kansas with also about a third as many students has recently built and equipped a Physics building at a cost of \$85,000. The smaller neighboring institutions, the University of Colorado, Colorado College, and Washington University have recently completed or are about to erect Laboratories for the use, in part at least, of Physics, costing \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Some of the other notable laboratories for Physics built since the creation of this department are the following—Chicago University, building alone \$225,000, Columbia University, N. Y., \$200,000, McGill University, Montreal, \$230,000, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, building and equipment, \$180,000, Brown University, Providence, \$100,000, Amherst College, Physics and Chemistry, \$150,000, University of Pennsylvania, \$200,000, and Lehigh University, \$100,000 for building alone. The registration in Physics in the University of Nebraska exceeds that of any of the above mentioned institutions.

The present floor area in actual use is about 13,000 square feet, and this should be at least doubled. Even with this space several thousand dollars worth of valuable apparatus is stored in the corridors and hallways without suitable protection. The lecture room which will only seat 115 students is frequently obliged to accommodate 175, and on cloudy days is frequently becomes so dark in the laboratory that work cannot be carried on.

The following estimates of the cost per student, to the state for one years education is based upon the appropriations granted to the various universities during the past two years by their state legislatures.

For the education of one student for one year in the state university it costs

Indiana	\$211 00
Missouri	185 00
Michigan	154 00
Colorado	152 00
Ohio	144 00
Iowa	140 00
California	121 00
Wisconsin	111 00
Minnesota	105 00
Illinois	105 00
Kansas	104 00
Nebraska	77 72

Minnesota asks for an appropriation sufficient to give her \$1,055,684 to meet the expenses of the next two years. This includes \$75,000 for a new physics building, \$75,000 for a new botany building and \$38,000 for other new buildings.

The regents of the University of Colorado have asked for an appropriation of \$50,000 for the erection of a new library building.

The University of Kansas is to have a new museum building to cost \$100,000 and a new chemistry building to cost \$80,000.

42.1 per cent of the students of The University of Nebraska come direct from the farms of the state and 47.1 per cent were born in Nebraska.

Because of the crowded condition of the shops there is a large number of students who have not been able to finish their work. Although a few have had the opportunity of making up work this week there will be many who will have "inc's" to work off next semester, and so reduce the working time of the next semester's regular students. The addition of a number of lathes would reduce the congestion to a great extent.

THE UNIVERSITY'S GROWTH SINCE 1871.

DIAGRAM SHOWING THE TOTAL ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS.

