

and effectively accomplished if more service were added to the library staff. Overworked professors might also be lightened of some of their burden if the library assistants had not already more to do than they can accomplish well.

To say that we need more money for more books, more magazines, for binding and repairing those we have, is to express the cry of every library from the congressional with its—— of books down to the smallest village library in Nebraska. In a library the demands always work in a circle, more readers require more books and larger buildings. And a growing library always attracts more readers, the work never ends, and while we may never be satisfied, the new building with its possibilities promises to materially increase the efficiency of the entire University.

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#### THE NEED OF A BUILDING FOR PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY.

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That the board of regents rightly anticipated the future demand and development in instruction in physical science by creating the department of physics less than seven years ago, was undoubtedly demonstrated some time ago by the rapid growth in numbers and the range of instruction sought. At no time have the facilities for the instruction or the accommodation of students been at all adequate to the requirements of the work. Being the youngest general division of the scientific departments, its wants have naturally been more pressing than the older departments in order to reach the same grade of efficiency.

Since its inception the department has been, at different times, housed in all the buildings on the campus used for instruction, and the work in physics proper is now only temporarily located in a building entirely unsuited and unintended for the purpose,—the room being on the attic floor and in the basement, and the least desirable

for class purposes, while the corridor has been partitioned off and laboratory work crowded into this exposed space. There has been no falling off in the departmental rate of increase in the University registration.

With a beginning of about fifty students, the total departmental registration last year was three hundred and thirteen, and at the beginning of this year four hundred and twenty-two, of which three hundred and sixty-six were registered in courses in physics proper in Nebraska Hall, the remainder (thirty per cent must be added to this for new courses in the second semester) being in the applied electrical courses in the engineering laboratory. In order to accommodate these students two divisions must occupy the same laboratory at different times, necessitating much extra work in removing and readjusting apparatus for another class, while a part of it must be cleared and prepared for lecture and recitation purposes. The lecture room on the attic floor, 40x22, with fixed seats for seventy-two, and with no ventilation system, has had to accommodate one hundred and sixty-four students day after day, by the use of settees and by chairs in the aisles, which had to be removed after each class. How the inevitable increase of students of another year can be accommodated it is utterly impossible to see. With such crowding it is almost impossible to properly conduct class experiments, requiring many pieces of apparatus and much space, and make them visible to all present. For such work a specially arranged lecture room is necessary, with abundant space, so that experiments and demonstrations may be seen from all parts of the room. Otherwise there must be much justifiable complaint.

While recommending laboratory instruction for beginners in the subject over the state, the department has been compelled to withhold this privilege from all students beginning the subject. On the other side, with students desiring to pursue their work and prepare themselves for teaching, the depart-