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### THE SOCIETY OF THE SIGMA XI.

Among Greek letter societies the one which is of especial interest to students of science is the Society of the Sigma XI. Its badge is now seen so frequently at meetings of scientific men that it is well to know exactly what it stands for. In 1886 at Cornell University the first chapter was founded and the initial letters of the phrase meaning "companions in zealous research" made the name of the society. Since this beginning it has grown especially during the last few years until now nearly every large university in the country has a chapter, the most recent additions being Chicago and Michigan.

It is an honor society open to men and women who have distinguished themselves in scientific or technical work. By the constitution two standards are set up: one relating to the eligibility of members of a college or university faculty and to alumni and one to students in the fourth year class. The first standard calls for an actual contribution to science and the second for such scholarship and success in scientific or technical studies as to give promise of ability to carry on research work.

At the Ohio State University which is the only institution in Ohio having a charter stress has always been laid on the election of seniors. The machinery of election is such that it amounts to a careful canvass by their instructors of the members of the fourth year class to determine who give the greatest promise of ability to contribute to the knowledge of the world on their special subjects. It is seen that to gain membership in Sigma XI is the highest academic honor that the student in science and technology can attain. The Society is not a fraternity in the ordinary sense of the word. There are no secrets and no "grip." In brief, to know that a senior was elected to Sigma XI is simply to know that he was one of the best men in his class.

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