

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
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ALFRED DODGE COLE MEMORIAL
LIBRARY

By FREDERIC C. BLAKE, *Professor of Physics*

THE Cole Memorial Library of Physics was established in Mendenhall Laboratory of Physics by the University in the year 1929. Professor Cole died on December 1, 1928, after a service of twenty-six years in the department of physics, during more than twenty of these serving as chairman of the department. Previous to his coming to the Ohio State University in 1901 he served at Denison University as professor of physics and chemistry for sixteen years, making his total service to the cause of science in the state and nation the very long period of forty-two years.

Professor Cole at one time and another served as an officer in The Ohio Academy of Science, The American Physical Society, and The American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was the author of numerous scientific papers, especially in the fields of electrical oscillations, infra-red radiations and thermionic relays. He was one of the very early workers as a student of Rubens in Berlin to show the anomalous dispersion of ethyl alcohol to the then newly discovered Hertzian waves.

The library itself has been nicely furnished by the University in two large rooms on the third floor of Mendenhall Laboratory. Lately, alongside of the Cole Library, the department of mathematics has established its graduate library so that the two departments of mathematics and physics have their libraries now housed in common and both the undergraduate work and the graduate work of the two departments have been greatly strengthened by reason of this fact. Students at all levels of training are continually consulting one or both libraries. All of this has greatly enhanced the *esprit de corps* of the student body toward their study of the two oldest sciences, mathematics and physics.

There are housed at present in the undergraduate division of the Cole Library about one thousand volumes on physics and its applications, while in the graduate division there are more than twenty-six hundred volumes, including all of the principal bound sets of journals. The graduate division of the department of mathematics houses more than twenty-eight hundred volumes at present, thus making readily available to the student in these fields more than six thousand volumes.

The Cole Memorial Library is partially endowed and the University hopes through the friends of Professor Cole and of the department of physics to complete the endowment to the full amount sought, namely, fifty thousand dollars. But this can only be done after the present prolonged period of depression is ended. When this is accomplished the University can confidently look forward to the day when the departments of mathematics and physics will have a departmental library in common second to none in the entire United States. When readers of the OHIO STATE ENGINEER remember that the physics of one generation becomes the engineer-

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ing of the next generation and when they remember that just at present there is a marked movement going on in all the important engineering schools of this country to strengthen greatly at all levels the three great fundamental departments of mathematics, physics, and chemistry, they as friends of science may justly be proud of the establishment of the Cole Memorial Library of Physics.
