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PROFESSORS, POLITENESS FIRST!—"The dispatch that brought the news of Mr. Edison's protest against Professor Scott's letter states that members of the Board of Regents of the University who have received copies of the correspondence 'intend to suggest an investigation of the matter at the next board meeting.' If this be so, it is another illustration of the fact that, though much advance has been made in recent years in the understanding of the proper status of university professors, there still remains necessary a great deal of education of university boards on that point. To discipline Professor Scott for manfully asserting his opinion of an intellectual absurdity, to make him feel a moment's discomfort because he was not afraid to say an unpleasant thing to a big man, is to do precisely the opposite of what needs to be done about our university professors. The more you make them feel that to accept a professorship is to surrender your individuality, the smaller will be the breed of men who will be willing to go into university work. Usually the conflict between the outspoken professor and the regulator turns on a question of controversial opinion; in this case we have a question of the supposed requirements of good manners. But at bottom precisely the same issue is involved—the question whether we want our professors to be men or want them to be puppets. As between Mr. Edison and Professor Scott, it is quite possible that the professor was to blame for not being more polite in his letter, but it is just as intolerable that a professor should be held to account, like a child, for a breach of politeness of this kind as that he should be muzzled in the expression of his opinion on public questions. If we want our professors to be men, we must make them secure in the manifestation of their manhood. And if we want our students to get the inspiration they ought to get out of their university life, we must above all see to it that their professors are full-sized men."

The Independent and the Weekly Review.

NOTE.—The quotation (but not the title) "Subsidies for Attendance at Professional Society Meetings" in the April BULLETIN should have been credited to R. C. Brooks.