

Chemistry
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The President of the Faculty,
and
Board of Trustees
Indiana University:
Gentlemen,

In the class receiving instruction in Elementary Chemistry and in the laboratories there are forty four students. The work is entirely satisfactory. There was some disappointment by the long delay in importing some chemicals and apparatus. They were lately received but I have not yet received the bill for them. I hope however to be able to pay the bill before the end of the week when I will hand in my Financial Report.

The Board may remember that in my June Report I estimated the annual expense of this department to be five or six hundred dollars. I therefore request the Board to appropriate \$500.00 for the purchase of articles required. During the second and third terms of last year the number of students in the laboratories was so great that nearly all of the chemicals were exhausted, and as there have been no pure acids purchased for two years a considerable part of five hundred dollars would be required for their purchase. I request that Mr Robert Hessler who

assists in the Laboratory for Qualitative Analysis be paid (\$30⁰⁰ per month) from money appropriated for Professors' Salaries and that the boy who works in the Laboratories be paid (\$18⁰⁰ per month) from money appropriated for general expenses.

As to books for this department I have not been able to secure the purchase of but one book, a single volume for two years. Although Chemistry is an experimental science yet of this science there is a literature which is increasing in volume every day and no teacher of this science can afford to ignore the literature or not encourage his pupils to study it. As a matter of fact for every hour a student devotes to laboratory practice one hour should be given to the study of Chemical literature. With the salary I receive I cannot with any consistency purchase all of the works required. I therefore request the Board to make a special appropriation for Chemical books. Works of lasting value are periodicals containing only the results of original research, and while it may not be practical to purchase this class of books exclusively yet it should be borne in mind that works containing results of original research do not become antiquated as special works do. One hundred and fifty dollars if

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judiciously expended would be of great benefit to this department. Heretofore I have not encouraged students to undertake original work in Chemistry for the simple reason that about three years work in the laboratories is required to obtain a fair knowledge of the science and time devoted to original research before general proficiency is attained is lost to the student.

While this is true of the fixed sciences as Chemistry and Physics also of Mathematics and Philology it does not follow that the same holds good with some other sciences. I would state that there is one student engaged in Quantitative Analysis who is prepared for original research and the number will increase, however this will depend very much on the high schools of the state. To provide for carrying on investigations, original in character, apparatus not in ordinary use and rare reagents will be frequently required.

Very respectfully yours
Thos. C. Van Slyke.

Bloomington Indiana

November 5 1888.

Prof. Van Nieuw

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