available, however, a fair supply of microscopes and chemical apparatus had been used in the old brick annex by Professor and Mrs. Ordway, and the basement laboratory belonging to the Natural History Society contained the necessary microscopes for the biological classes. Professor Ordway very kindly loaned his collection of microscopes to Professor Sedgwick for the first year, and before the end of 1884-85 the room which is now occupied by the Department had been fitted up and had up to that time been used as a laboratory. The vacancy was now vacated by the Department of Physics and turned over to the new Department of Biology.

At the beginning of 1884 this large and excellent room was well fitted up with some of the necessary laboratory apparatus so that work began in earnest in the autumn of that year. The first Assistant in Biology was Professor Sedgwick's friend, Dr. Edmund W. Wilson, afterwards Professor of Zoology in Columbia University and now one of the most eminent of living biologists. He was succeeded by Dr. Edward G. Gardiner, a graduate of Boston University. In the first year or two whenever Professor Sedgwick was out of town it was necessary to lock the door and take the key with him, because he had no assistant, junior, or other person to leave in charge.

The Department grew very slowly and for a number of years bore a precarious existence. Owing to the unwillingness of the better medical schools in the vicinity to allow properly trained men trained in Biology, the hoped-for development along the line of preparation for medical studies was not realized, and it was not until the rise of the School of Bacteriology, obviously destined to be of immense importance in the world, that a complete knowledge of these first law is admitted by even the most ardent vitalist, but the second law is not supposed to be inviolable. The remarkable results which have followed the application of the laws of energetics to chemistry, have opened a new field to the biologist. The present course is an unprejudiced attempt to apply some of these results to the phenomena of life. The velocity of reaction and its temperature co-efficient are illustrated in various vital reactions. Chemical equilibrium is seen to underlie many remarkable automatic mechanisms of the body, including the heart-beat, and to furnish a partial explanation of organic synthesis. Osmotic pressure and semi-permeable membranes help to elucidate many puzzling problems in secretion and the specific properties of certain substances. The ratio between the two extremes of the enzymes.

No attempt is made to "explain" life but the individual phenomena of life are correlated as far as possible with those of physical chemistry.

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FROM DR. WHITE

BIOLOGY AS A FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL TRAINING.

It is with the greatest pleasure that I write a few words about the value of the work in the Biological Department at the Institute.

I believe that a course in general biology such as I enjoyed in the most valuable foundation possible for productive medical work. The thorough early training in scientific observation, deduction, and criticism as practiced in the Biological Laboratory has been of the greatest possible value in my work in medicine in giving breadth of view, in avoiding empiricism, and helping me to attack the problems of health and disease in a scientific spirit. The earnest desire to contribute something each year to medical knowledge by experimental work or by the scientific observation of sick persons (in addition to carrying on the routine of medical practice) dates back to the early training and inspiration of the work in the Biological Laboratory.

The early laboratory training, since I learned there familiarity with foreign literature and practice in holding up a standard of judgment of foreign contributions and the recognition of these good things, has proved very useful. And last of all these good things, and the source of all the opportunity of personal contact with the scientific and vigorous head of the department.

Most sincerely yours,
FRANKLIN W. WHITE.