When my father was sixteen, it was settled that he should go to college, and, after much thumbing through catalogues, he decided that Harvard offered the under President Eliot offered the greatest inducements for the serious student. Accordingly, my father spent two years in a preparatory school in New York City, and entered Harvard at the age of eighteen with the class of '84.

There now began a period of training, which was destined to become more and more a period of positive achievement, in my father's life, when his progress seems to have been remarkable. When he entered Harvard, he was a very raw product, full of eager seriousness to learn, but without knowledge of the world, without any knowledge of history, or of the nature of the creative life, to which he was to devote himself. While he had learned to teach himself to study, he had not yet mastered the method of work. When he came to have charge of the chemistry department at Purdue University, less than ten years later, he had not only mastered the problems of teaching, writing, and creative research, but he had obtained a profound understanding of the relations between chemistry and other sciences, and between science generally and a conception of the position of science in relation with respect to other intellectual disciplines, and, finally, he had established for himself by his work and his publications concerning bisulfite carbon an reputation of originality and even genius which was finer in Germany than in his own country. It could be said of him in those years, as Melville said of his own experience in the late twenties of his career, that not a day or an hour passed when life during which life failed to unfold for him.

Each year at Harvard marked a definite progress. As a Freshman his standing in scholarship was only a little above the average of his class; a low grade in German, the language of his birth, had pulled him down and the language in which all his scientific discoveries were to be recorded, pulled him down. As a senior, he led all his classmates. This advance was not obtained.
by a lengthening of his hours of work; it was obtained by a better application. He was, as a matter of fact, finding increasing opportunities to make contacts with the interest of people in Cambridge and to familiarize himself with subjects which did not come properly within his own field of work.

My father

On entering Harvard

At the time of entering college, my father had planned to go into medicine. It was the hope of doing something to alleviate human suffering which made this career appeal to him. His first course in chemistry was taken because it was a prerequisite for entering the medical school. At the outset, this subject had an extraordinary appeal for my father, and even in the first two years, of which his grades in other courses were not remarkable, he was always first in his chemistry classes. I do not think that I do violence to truth when I say that it was not only the marked practical success which he obtained in these courses, which influenced him in deciding to be a chemist, but his experiences during his college course led him to believe that he might do more for the sufferings of his fellow men by his research than by becoming a practicing physician. It was the age of Pasteur, and my father always had the greatest admiration for the very much life-saving work of Pasteur, which my father always had the greatest admiration, with very much life-saving work of Pasteur, which my father always admired.

His extraordinary record in chemistry at Harvard opened to him a three years' travelling fellowship abroad, and my father decided to employ the money thus provided to obtain his doctor's degree under Beyer at Munich. Fortunately the proceeds of the fellowship were sufficient to relieve him from any obligation to make money need to work for money during these years. My father always believed that, in order to obtain the full benefits of an academic education, it was necessary to be free from all deleterious obligations during term time. Thanks to his father's saving and his own achievement, he was able to enjoy this freedom during a period of seven years, excepting
the summer holidays of his course at Harvard. He was therefore able to throw himself completely into the rich cultural and scientific life provided by Munich in the eighties. At a very early stage Boege appears to have marked himself out as a coming man, and there soon began a friendship between teacher and pupil which ended only with my father's death. He not only obtained his doctorate degree, but in three short years he acquired an understanding of German civilization, of its achievements in music, literature and science, and of its limitations on the political side, which very few foreigners possessed. He learned to speak and think in German, and yet he retained a detachment which always permitted him to view this foreign civilization with detachment and discrimination. At the same time his results in the laboratory astonished his teachers, and assured him of the summer cum laude which crowned his career as a student. Years afterwards (I have the story from Professor Wildtäüber himself), Boege told Wildtäüber that of all the students he had had during his long tenure of what had become the most distinguished professorial chair in German chemistry. He chair of chemistry at Munich, Nees was the most brilliant.

It was, I believe, soon after he had taken his first teaching post at Purdue that the results of his research began to attract attention. First a call to the new Clark University, and later my appointment to head of the chemistry department at Chicago.

I will not attempt to discuss the history of the department here, or the results which he obtained in the laboratory, for it is unlikely that I could add anything to the information which you yourself have, or will be able to obtain from my father's students. My father's departure from Purdue seems to me to bring to an end that period in his life, which is probably least known to you, and with which, therefore, I have attempted to deal at some length. His preparation was over; he now had an established position. Of the advantages of this new man, it appears to have involved him in many new
responsibilities, which hindered him to some extent in pursuing his research work with the same singleness of purpose which the years immediately preceding and following the taking of his doctorate had allowed him. The administration of the department, and in particular the handling of the undergraduate students, presented him with problems which imposed a considerable strain upon his very highly strung temperament. To these difficulties were added increasing family cares which involved him in worries that a less sensitive nature would doubtless have escaped. His father, who had hitherto been in robust health, died of galloping consumption before he had completed his studies in Munich, thus leaving him at the outset of his career with the obligation of providing for and taking care of his mother, who was already something of an invalid. After he married Alice Constand, who had been one of his students, the problem of providing adequately for the several persons who had now become dependent upon him added to his concerns.

It was his habit during all his years as a lecturer to take his daily exercise with almost the same intensity which characterized his work at the laboratory. His closest friends, who saw him only when he was on his holidays, still say of him: "Er konnte nicht laufen, er musste immer springen." [He couldn’t walk, he had to spring]. And nearly everyone who knew him remarked upon that astonishing gait of his which knew no leisure. This altogether exceptional quickness and energy of response, which was of the very essence of his being, was undoubtedly the cause of his most remarkable achievements in science. At the same time it taxed his strength, for he never really learned how to relax. Just on the eve of developments which might have considerably lightened his family cares, the premature death of his wife, in April 1904, brought to an end what had been an exceptionally happy marriage, and, besides plunging him into profound grief, took from him the only person capable of guarding him from those excesses of energy to which his nature was prone. It was less than four years after his death that he began to show symptoms of that illness of the heart which was not at first correctly diagnosed, and which brought him on August 13, 1915, to his so sudden end.
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obligation of providing for and taking care of his mother, who was already
detecting signs of invalidism and who showed symptoms of a mental
derangement which was destined to become more pronounced. When he married in May 1898 the problem of providing adequately for
the several persons who had now become dependent upon him added
to his concern. My father could not stand worry, and the results of two periods of exceptional strain in connection with his
work, he had two rather serious breakdowns. It was perhaps partly
a subconscious desire to escape from worry that led him
to take his daily exercise with almost the same intensity which
characterized his work. His Swiss friends, who saw him only
when he was on his holidays, still say of him that he could not
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The volumetric determination of combined nitric acid.  
(With L.P. Kinnicutt)

Über einige Derivate des Durols

Über die Chinontetraarbonäsäre.

Über Benzochinoncarbonsäuren.

Über das Py-3-Phenylchinolin und Py-3-E-Dichinolyly.  
(With W. Koeniga)

Nitransäure aus Chloranil.

Carboxyl derivatives of Benzoquinone.  
(Also in Chem. Soc. Trans. 1888)

On Tautomeric compounds. I.  
The constitution of the anilic acids.

Über Tautomere Körper.

Die Constitution des Benzochinons.

On Tautomeric compounds. II.  
The constitution of benzoquinone I.

" " " " " " II.

Zur Kenntniss des Acetessigäthers I.

Über das Zweiwerthige Kohlenstoffatom. Erste abhand.  
Zur Kenntniss des Acetessigäthers II.

Über die 1,3-Diketone.

On bivalent Carbon. I.
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Dissociationsvorgänge in der Zuckergruppe. I. Ueber das Verhalten der Zuckerarten gegen die Fehlingsche Lösung sowie gegen anderer Oxydationsmittel.

On the non-equivalence of the four valences of the Carbon atom.

Dissociationsvorgänge in der Zuckergruppe. II. Ueber das Verhalten der Zuckerarten gegen Atzalkalien.

Dissociationsvorgänge in der Zuckergruppe. III.

Method of oxidation and oxidation products of l-arabinose, and of l-xylose in alkaline solution with air and with cupric hydroxide.

Total cans (i copy of each) = 13 = $4.55
Dissociation of amino acids. Urea and succinimide. II. Urea and succinimide. V. Urea and lactate. Kegel's reaction. 

Method of extraction. I. Precipitation and extraction. II. Jod-fusion, etc. Ixelles, etc. With acid and with carbonate.
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My father John Ulric Meff was born June 14th, 1862, at Herrsau, Canton Appenzell, Switzerland, the eldest son of John Ulric Meff and Anna Katharine (Mock) Meff. The brother John Jacob was born two years later (the only other child).

Soon after my father's birth, his father and mother moved to a mill between the towns of Urnach and Herrsau, which was my father's home until he was six years old. The experience which made the most lasting impression on my father was the saving of his brother from drowning in the little lake near the mill. At this time my father was four years old.

My grandfather was not satisfied with the work at his mill and became interested in the possibilities for the textile industry in America. Not wishing to venture into unknown lands with his wife and
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children he left them in Switzerland and set out for America in a small sailing vessel in the year 1864. The trip from Hamburg to New York lasted almost two months. My grandfather landed in America with practically no money, only knowing only a little English. He almost fit the people in New York who tried all sorts of unlawful means to make the helpless immigrant fight for the North in the Civil War. He finally found what he wanted at Houseatonic Massachusetts and became head of the working end of a textile factory. When established at Houseatonic, he sent back to Switzerland for his wife and children to come to America. They left Switzerland when my father was six years old, and went by train to Hamburg and then from there by steamboat to...
New York. During the train journey my father met with an accident, his middle finger of his left hand being caught in a door and partially cut off. Arriving in New York, the family went at once to Housatonic, where a small house and farm was waiting for them. My father began at once to go to school, but the school at Housatonic was not a good one and it was soon decided that he should go to Great Barrington, a larger town about four miles away. From that time until he was ready to prepare for college, my father walked four miles to and from school with each day, carrying his books and his lunch. He did a great deal of work on the little farm at home where a few vegetables were raised and where the family kept chickens and som
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My father spent a little time each day working on the formal music lessons and theory. He was interested in music, and he often mentioned how he learned to play the piano. He told me he used to find many hours in the dictionary in order to learn all the new words available. He often used words that were new to him, and he would spend hours looking up the dictionary. This is how he developed his vocabulary and his ability to understand music. My grandfather believed in the importance of music and reading, and he always encouraged us to explore new ideas and to think critically.

To sum up, music is an important aspect of life, and it is a great way to express oneself. It is a way to connect with others and to explore new ideas. My grandfather believed in the importance of music and reading, and he always encouraged us to think critically and to explore new ideas. This is how he developed his vocabulary and his ability to understand music.
in much physical exercise and active play. My father learned to play baseball, put the shot, and all the other sports of that time. His greatest pleasure was swimming, I think. He became an expert at it, and used to delight in swimming under water and exploring the bottom of the river. It was while swimming that he broke his ear drum, and, as there were no good doctors available, he never was able to hear much in his left ear. The boys with whom he had to associate in his games were rough, ill-mannered boys, fellows with whom he could find nothing in common. From what he told me, I think there were no boys in the town who had any real interest for my father. He appreciated that and while he was able to play with them,
as it was necessary to have someone with whom to get his physical development, he found them always reformless and never shared his studies or his intellectual development with them in any way whatsoever.

When my father was in his first years of high school he had no thought of ever going to college, feeling that his family was too poor. Then he became interested largely through his father, I think, and began to study the possibility of earning his way through by scholarships. He sent for all the catalogues and read all the literature that he could, possibly there was to be had, studying it all out most religiously. He felt that Harvard was the best place to get the training (at thistime he longed to study medicine—
he felt that no other profession offered such wide opportunities for doing good for him which he desired. He was in his third year of high school when he decided to concentrate on going to Harvard, and he was in no way prepared for it. He found that he still would have at least two years work to do before he could enter. Father did not feel that he could possibly spend as much time as that in preparation. He went to New York to the principal of one of the best preparatory schools there, and put the whole case into his hands, telling him that he wished to enter Harvard in a year and was determined to do all the necessary work and pass all his examinations in that time. The principal was interested and went over the possibilities with father, at the end of a year
of what must have been a years tremendous work, he was ready to take his examinations. The result of these was of the keenest disappointment to him, for although he was admitted, he had two conditions to work off. Father has never been able to understand this and has always felt that there must have been some mistake. However, he entered Harvard and worked as hard that he had gotten rid of his conditions even before the end of two months. He also won a scholarship which was large enough to pay almost all the expenses of his first year. He was kept from getting the highest available scholarship because of his work in one study, German. He had forgotten the German he had learned up to the age of six, and consequently had
to learn it again in college. He found it very easy, and soon spoke it fluently again, but, no doubt, because the language was natural to him, he made mistakes in grammar which lowered his mark to a C.

When my father entered Harvard he had practically made up his mind to go into medicine. Consequently he at once began to take chemistry. This, at once, fascinated him, and his work in it was unparalleled in the history of Harvard college. He gradually gave up the idea of becoming a physician, but I believe it was not until his last year that he definitely decided to make it his life work.

My father's college work improved each year (he received the highest possible scholarships in each of his last three years), and in his last year he was first in his class by a wide margin. He made Phi Beta Kappa.
his third year. On the basis of his work in chemistry, he was offered a fellowship enabling him to study three years in Europe.

During the whole of his college career in college he was paid all his own expenses by his scholarships and by working summers. But my grandfather had become dissatisfied with his business in Housatonic. My father told me that he had always been too sympathetic and kind to the day laborers under him to satisfy his employers. They had treated him miserable, giving him a very poor salary when his work had been largely responsible for all the success of the business. My grandfather felt the injustice of this, and during my father's last year in college, he sold the little property which he owned in Housatonic and went south, hoping to find something which would enable him to
go into business for himself. He had very ex-
tensive plans, and he found some property in
the southern part of the Blue Ridge Mountains
in Georgia, which appealed to him especially,
because of the opportunities which it offered in
regard to water power. The property was a
long distance from any railway, and my
grandfather spent about a week going over
it. During this time he earned a great deal
and he was wet through many times, and had
no change of clothes. He caught a terrible
cold and cough. He finally bought the prop-
erty and started north in fitful condition.
His cold was rapidly developing into con-
sumption, and before he was able to see a
physician, the diseased tuberculosis had a
frightful grip on him. My father did not
see him until he came to Cambridge for the
graduating exercise. My father often told
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me of the terrible shock he received when he saw the condition of his father and realized that he could not live for more than a few years. It had been my grandfather's intention to begin work in the south at once, but father convinced him that this was impossible and the two sailed for Europe shortly after graduation from Harvard. They went at once to Switzerland where everything was done to help my grandfather but it was too late. They spent a happy two months together on the Winnemalottte Ice, two months which my father always treasured very much. On the summer ended, it was time for my father to begin his studies, and my grandfather wanted to return to the United States. The parting was very sad for each felt that he would never see the other again. A few months later my grandfather died.

My father was not in a very good...
condition to begin studying for his life work. He went to Munich and began studying under Professor Adolf von Beyer. Here he became in contact with many very great chemists, and had an intensely interesting life. He became very warm friends with a young Englishman whose name I do not know. This man was very clever and witty and his philosophy about life and religion appealed to father very much. Father was very ill for a whole month during his second year in Munich, and this Englishman was a most welcome nurse. He spent hours with father each day. Father's interest in his work was his greatest pleasure. He spent most of his summers on the Lake of Starnburg. This proved an ideal place to get rest, and father wrote most of his thesis there. His favorite exercises was rowing, and he rowed in both four and single oared shells.
The Harvard, or older, of the two colleges, on which the Harvard University, the present, is built, is the Harvard University of the classical education.
at all well, and my father was made uncomfortable and saw that an exchange of some sort must be made. After trying various experiments, he decided to take his mother back to Switzerland where she would be at home with her relatives. According to the summer of 1891 (I think), the two left for Europe, again. The trip was a very unhappy one for father, for because my grandmother's mind was in a very pitiful condition, and she got him into many awkward and unpleasant situations. At St. Gallen, Switzerland, she became very much overcome, and one night, either in sleep or semi-consciousness, she threw herself out of the hotel window. For a time it was thought she would not recover, but after several weeks in the hospital, she grew stronger, and was able.
to leave, although she permanently lost the use of one eye. The summer wore very heavily on my father's nervous temperament, and he returned to America in poor condition to resume work.

It was during the next year, I believe, that he along with several other prominent men at Clark, received an offer to go to the University of Chicago, which was to open the following year. The men all felt very uncertain as to the desirability of going. But conditions at Clark were such that most of them accepted.

The conditions for chemistry at Chicago were, at first, very unsatisfactory. There was no laboratory and lectures and experiments were carried on in a cold flat building near 163rd and Lexington Avenue.
In 1896 father was made head of the Chemistry Department. Between the years 1890-1898 (inclusive) father made regular trips to Europe every summer. He spent most of his time in Switzerland, climbing many difficult peaks in the Bernese Oberland and Graubünden regions. These, while they were a help on account of the rigorous physical exercise, proved a severe, nervous strain. The hard conditions (bad hotels, bad food, sleepless nights) proved worse, but the tremendous fascination of the mountains, their beauty, and the chance for exploration kept father on despite his better judgment. My grandmother, too, was a strain for it seemed impossible to find a desirable place for her to stay and it seemed out of the question to take her with him. In the year 1897 father found a quiet, rural, seclusion in
a short distance from Mexico, where she could be given the attention she needed, and this place (called the Heineheshbad) offered a home to her until her death in 1911.

My father had never thought of getting married. He always felt that it was not right for a college professor, with outside means, to marry. It was in the year 1895 that he met my mother, Louise Fates Comstock who had come to Chicago with her mother to do graduate work at the University. She took a course in chemistry under my father, and the two found that they had interests which were very much in common. My mother was a very remarkable woman. She had an understanding and a sympathy for my father's work which no one else had. Her beautifully sweet nature, coupled with an
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unsurpassed sense of humor appealed tremendously to my father. They both had a devoted love for music and art; my mother played the piano beautifully. When my mother had completed her course at the University and proposed to return to Rochester, New York, her home, where she intended to take up teaching, father felt that injustice to them both. He must pay the situation in her hands. So they became engaged and were married at Rochester on April 5th, 1898, after which they immediately sailed for Europe, with which they were both familiar.

My mother had spent much of her life after she had reached the age of twenty in Europe with her mother. They had done a great deal of traveling and studying, mostly in Berlin where my mother had met
a very interesting Russian girl of the best class who had become her warmest friend. The two had been through Germany, Italy, and France together. As both the Russian and my mother, nor my grandmother were pressed for time, they had been able to see Europe with an appreciation which few people ever get.

So it was that my mother and father knew exactly where to go to find the most beautiful things, and that their wedding trip was of a most remarkable sort. They spent six months abroad, returning for the opening of the fall term at the University of Chicago.

It was this year that my father's work led him to experiment with all sorts of poisons so that he had to wear an air helmet to keep from breathing the deadly gases. An explosion in the laboratory injured his eyes, and it was then...
for a time that she might be made blind.

In 1903 my father suffered from
a very severe nervous breakdown which was
the source of great alarm to my mother and to
all his friends. He spent two
months in a
cottages in Wisconsin, and then took
a three months vacation during the summer.

Between the years 1899-1906 my
father and mother, grandmother, and I had
gone regularly every summer to Sand Haven
Michigan, where we rented a furnished
cottage on the lake. Most of the
winter the family lived in an apartment
overlooking Jackson Park (60th St. Island). I

On the summer of 1907 we gave up
the trip to Sand Haven and instead went to
Freck Creek (Green Bay) Wisconsin where we all
lived in a small hotel. Father was able
to play a good deal of tennis, and the summer
was on the whole a satisfactory and restful
one.

The following year, 1908, my grandmother
visited her adopted daughter in Minneapolis, and mother and father took me to Colorado. It was difficult to find a place where the food was tolerably good, and we all suffered from poisoning in Denver. We spent a week in Boulder and then father went on ahead to Estes Park where there was a better opportunity for climbing and long tramps. Mother soon followed with me, and Dr. and Mrs. Wilson came out from Chicago to join us. Father went out on long walking expeditions almost every day (usually by himself). He went in many practically unexplored places and astonished everyone at the Elkhorn Lodge by his feats. I believe he is the only man who made the trip up Long's Peak from Elkhorn Lodge in a single day, starting not earlier than six in the morning. Dr. Wilson was an expert climber, and he tried to get father interested, but without success. He
nervous and impulsive temperament did not give him the necessary patience to be inactive for so long a time as was required.