

The Jolly Electron.

Sung to the Tune of "The Jolly Miller," at the Physical Society Club.

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| <p>1. There was a jolly electron—alternately bound and free—
Who toiled and spun from morn to night, no Snark so lithe as he ;
And this the burden of his song for ever <i>used</i> to be :—
" I care for nobody, no, not I, since nobody cares for me."
<i>Chorus.</i>
And this the burden of his song for ever <i>used</i> to be,
" I care for nobody, no, not I, since nobody cares for me."</p> <p>2. Though Crookes at first suspected my presence on this earth,
'Twas J. J. Thomson found me—in spite of my tiny girth.
He measured first the " e by m " of my electric worth ;
I love J. J. in a filial way, for he it was gave me birth!
<i>Chorus.</i>
But this the burden of my song, etc.</p> <p>3. 'Twas Johnstone Stoney invented my new electric name,
Then Rutherford, and Bohr, too, and Moseley brought me fame ;</p> | <p>They guessed (within the atom) my inner and outer game,
You'll all agree what they did for me,
I'll do it for them, the same !
<i>Chorus.</i>
But this the burden of my song, etc.</p> <p>4. Then Wilson, known as ' C. T. R., ' his camera brought to bear,
And snapped me (and the Alphas too) by fog-tracks in the air.
We like that chap ! For a camera snap is a proof beyond compare ;
A regular star is C. T. R., we'd follow him anywhere !
<i>Chorus.</i>
But this the burden of my song, etc.</p> <p>5. So whether I rest as static charge, or rove in the ether free,
Or whether I settle in nuclear state, perched up on a proton's knee,
Or whether I spin my quantum yarns, in a spectroscopic key,
I'll love the ' Physicals ' all the time, since all of 'em dote on me.'
<i>Chorus.</i>
But this the burden of my song for ever <i>used</i> to be,
" I care for nobody, no, not I, since nobody cares for me."
R. A. S. PAGET.</p> |
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The Cavendish Laboratory as a Factor in a Counter-Revolution.

Sir NAPIER SHAW, F.R.S.

NOW that Parliament in its wisdom has once more made the University of Cambridge responsible for the teaching of its students, the wheel has come round full circle and we may fairly indulge in a retrospect about the teaching of science. The story may begin with 1851, when reforms were introduced largely at the instance of the Prince Consort, who had been elected Chancellor in 1847. There is an early pencilling in *Punch*, by John Leech, representing the election day with a placard of the opposition " Boats no Botany." It is astonishing how placidly an undergraduate can go through his course unconscious of living in a time of momentous change. The final statutes for the University of the 1851 Commission are dated 1858 ; but for the first time, in 1851, the class lists record the results of a Moral Sciences Tripos and a Natural Sciences Tripos, both quite new. Previously, dating back to 1824, there had been a Classical Tripos ; but before 1851 it was limited to candidates who had already obtained honours in the Mathematical Tripos. The published class lists of that educational instrument go back to 1747-48 and form the connecting link between the triposes of to-day and the academic system of the Middle Ages when the University was paramount.

In my undergraduate days there were still some notable relics of that system. Within the structure of

the central University building, the Library, there were a Divinity School, a Law School, and an Arts School, each arranged like a court of justice. There was a Medical School also ; but already it possessed a separate building with a museum and dissecting-room.

The schools were originally arranged for the candidates for honours to ' keep ' their ' acts ' for degrees in the faculties of Divinity, Law, Arts, and Medicine, with moderators for judges, proctors for police, and University students for the general public. The candidate sat upon his tripos as proponent of a thesis in theology, law, medicine, or philosophy, with opponents to take sides in a public disputation. That had been the medieval plan for deciding upon the relative merits of the candidates. Since the beginning of the sixteenth century there had been Regius professors in divinity, law, and physics, who could act as moderators for their faculties. There was also a Regius professor of Greek who might have been regarded as dean of the general faculty of arts or philosophy ; but the colleges had captured the right of moderation in that faculty before the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and moderators were nominated by the colleges in turn, according to a fixed rota.

The colleges had also assumed responsibility for the education of their students in preparation for the final