

## Professor Shaler's "Snap" Courses.

*To the Editor of The New York Times:*

I have read with interest Dean Hawkes's reference to "snap" courses. While Nathaniel Southgate Shaler lived, Harvard supplied a long procession of able geologists to the United States Geological Survey and to the world. He died, and Harvard stopped doing this. He gave snap courses, but he was perhaps the greatest teacher of earth science that America ever had; at least he had few peers.

Men of science sometimes laughed at some of his easy generalizations and he talked to the boys not only of geology but of everything human. He was my teacher and my friend, and I know. Students elected not geology but Shaler. Boys should do this in large measure in college. Choose almost any subject; but elect your teachers. Shaler tucked in the geology so deftly that it was a life-saving injection to many. It caught—they found themselves, and then got their technique largely from lesser men.

**ALBERT PERRY BRIGHAM.**

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