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From 1903 until 1964 the Hammond Metallurgical Laboratory at Yale was a leading center of metals research. Instructors there taught a unique combination of scientific theory and practical technique. Alumni of Hammond Laboratory formed the initial staff at many metallurgy departments around the United States and served as research directors of major metals companies. In 1964 Yale’s president decided that instruction in metallurgy (as well as in civil engineering) was inappropriate for his university, and closed the department. Before this happened, it was my good fortune to know Professor Champion H. Mathewson, one of the founders of metallography in the United States.

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