The other book is a short pamphlet by Dr. U. Perronnet, and treats of mental suggestion. It is a very interesting little work, relating curious facts, and that seems to be appreciated by competent persons. Two works are in preparation on the same subject, — one by Dr. Ochorowitz; the other, by Dr. Baréty of Nice. These two works will be interesting, their authors being especially competent, which is not the case in many others recently published, and of which I prefer not to speak. V.

Paris, Sept. 14.

VIENNA LETTER.

A NEW and very sensitive test for cellulose and vegetable fibres has been described recently by Dr. Hans Molisch, an assistant at Professor Wiesner's phyto-physiological laboratory. It is based on the fact, that, by the action of water and concentrated sulphuric acid, cellulose is converted into sugar, or, to speak more correctly, into dextrine and dextrose: therefore vegetable fibres consisting mainly of cellulose exhibit indirectly the reactions of sugar. The importance of this new test for detecting adulterations of wool, etc., can easily be understood.

An important discovery in reference to cellulose has been made here. It was generally assumed till now that the occurrence of this body was restricted to the vegetable kingdom, and to a few families of invertebrated animals — viz., the Ascidia and Tunicata — containing tunicin, or animal cellulose, in their 'mantle.' Now, Mr. Ernst Freund claims to have found cellulose in the human blood and organs under particular pathological conditions. These conditions are produced by tuberculous disease. Taking into consideration some etiological facts, especially the effect of the quality of food on the spread of tuberculosis among the population, Freund was induced to examine if cellulose may be a chemical substratum for the formation of tuberculous growths. The tuberculous organs (lungs, spleen, miliary tubercles of the peritoneum) and blood, when treated properly, yielded an organic non-nitrogenous body, belonging, as it was proved by ultimate analysis, to the carbo-hydrates, and possessing all the properties of cellulose. In all the cases, — those taken from normal organs, and those afflicted by various non-tuberculous diseases, — Freund failed to find cellulose at all: therefore he feels himself compelled to conclude that cellulose is a typical constituent of tubercles and of the blood in tuberculosis.

The seventh meeting of the International congress of orientalists will be held here from Sept. 27 till Oct. 2. Many illustrious orientalists, especially Indians, will be present, more than three hundred and sixty members being already announced. The principal orientalists' associations will send their delegates. More than forty papers will be read, among them some on ethnological matters. The publication of the so-called 'Fajum papyros' found some years ago in Egypt, being now in possession of the Archduke Rainer, promises to be of great interest.

On Sept. 2 the highest European meteorological observatory was dedicated solemnly. It is situated on the Somblick Mountain (near Rauris, Salzburg), 3,103 metres above the sea-level, and consists of a tower and three other rooms. It is supplied with all the necessary meteorological instruments, and is connected by telephone with the nearest telegraph-office. Herr Rojacher, proprietor of the Rauris mines, has aided the progress of the work in a very munificent manner.

The number of medical students at the Vienna university is rapidly increasing. During the winter session just past, 2,407 ordinary and 266 extraordinary students were there matriculated. The minister of public instruction, therefore, issued a circular to the medical department of Vienna university, asking if the number of students would not have to be restricted by introducing a *numerus clausus*.

As I am now informed, the mantle of Auer von Welsbach's lamp, described already in a previous letter, is prepared by impregnating the gauze with solutions of salts of zirconia, oxides of lanthanum (and yttria). V. C.

Vienna, Sept. 14.

NOTES AND NEWS.

CASES of so-called hydrophobia, in which an interval of years elapses between the bite and the appearance of the disease, are to be regarded with suspicion. Dr. Jardin-Beaumetz, in a communication to the Conseil d'hygiène, gives the interval, or the period of incubation, as it is termed, as averaging between three and four months, in fifty-eight cases of hydrophobia in man, observed since 1881. A well-authenticated case, which is a striking exception to this rule, has recently occurred in France, in which nineteen months elapsed.

— Mr. Arnold Hague, of the U. S. geological survey, who is now in the Yellowstone national park, writes that the accounts which have appeared in various newspapers, of an outbreak of the Excelsior geyser coincident with the date of the recent earthquake that was so destructive at Charleston on Aug. 31, are entirely without foundation. He has been studying this geyser for the last four years,