

upon calves, with the same results. If these observations are confirmed by further experiments and other experimenters, the micro-organism which has been so long undiscovered, and which causes tens of thousands of deaths annually, may soon be added to the list which now contains that of tuberculosis, typhoid-fever, and a few other diseases.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS.

THE opportunity which is just now presented to the managers of the American school at Athens to secure an efficient, permanent director, brings the claims of this useful enterprise with fresh strength before the scholars and promoters of learning in America. Dr. Charles Waldstein, the accomplished archeologist, who is a citizen of New York and a former student of Columbia college, but who now holds two important positions at the University of Cambridge, England, as lecturer on archeology and director of the Fitzwilliam museum, has accepted the invitation of the managers to assume the directorship, upon the condition that a permanent endowment shall be secured for the school, sufficient for its legitimate needs, before the 1st of October, 1888, when the appointed year of Professor Merriam of Columbia college will end. A writer in the *London Saturday review* for Sept. 26, 1885, gives an intelligent and highly appreciative account of the work done by the American school, but makes this forcible criticism: "Undoubtedly the weak point of the whole American scheme is the fact that the director goes out for a year only. America can send a succession of good scholars, but she cannot send a succession of men capable of teaching archeology; indeed, a student who remains at Athens longer than the regulation year might easily become more learned in that pursuit than his director. Thus the head of the school cannot instruct his students, but only work with them, and they must pick up their knowledge from books as well as they can."

The American school of classical studies was projected by the Archeological institute of America (of which Prof. Charles Eliot Norton is the president), and was organized under the auspices of some of the leading American colleges. The director of the school was to be chosen from the professors of Greek in these colleges, by a committee appointed by the Archeological institute. The school was opened on the 2d of October, 1882, under Prof. W. W. Goodwin of Harvard university. Its object was to furnish to graduates of American colleges an opportunity to study classi-

cal literature, art, and antiquities in Athens under suitable direction; to prosecute and to aid original research in these subjects; and to co-operate with the home institute, so far as possible, in conducting the exploration and excavation of classic sites. The salary of the director was to be paid by his own college, and no fees were to be charged to the students. The boldness of this enterprise was peculiarly American, for, while the older French and German schools had been maintained for many years by the liberality of the two governments that founded them, the projectors of the American school relied with confidence upon the willingness, and even eagerness, of our intelligent men of wealth to take the place which ancient governments fill in Europe, as patrons of learning.

The American undertaking instantly presented a stimulus in the same direction to English scholars; and within three years we find Dr. Lightfoot, the bishop of Durham, urging his countrymen to emulate our example in establishing a school at Athens. He said at a public meeting in London, in 1885, "It now touches our honor as Englishmen very nearly that this scheme should be carried out without delay. France and Germany have long been in the field. France has her school, and Germany her institute; and even America has forestalled her in this race. That new country, notwithstanding the vast and absorbing interests of the present, notwithstanding the boundless hopes of the future, has been eager to claim her part in the heritage. While all the civilized nations of the world, one after another, are establishing their literary consulates in Athens, shall England alone be unrepresented at this centre of Hellenic culture?"

These words, supported by the earnest appeals of Dr. Hornby, provost of Eton, Prof. R. C. Jebb, and other distinguished scholars, produced the desired effect, and a British school is now established in Athens.

The American school has now nearly completed its fifth year of work, with increased numbers of students and every prospect of increasing usefulness. It has up to this time occupied a hired house, and has been entirely supported by the annual contributions of fourteen colleges, from which the house-rent, the appropriations for the library, and incidental expenses, have been paid; each college, in its turn, sending a professor to Athens as director for one year without expense to the school. With these temporary and imperfect arrangements, much valuable work has been accomplished by the school, which has received cordial recognition both at home and abroad. "Now," as the managers say, "a new era is to begin. We are henceforth to have a home of our

own. The government of Greece has shown such warm interest in our enterprise, that a valuable piece of land on the slope of Mount Lycabettus, containing an acre and a half, has been granted to the school by a royal edict, issued July 25, 1886, and signed by seven ministers of state."

This generosity of the Greek government has already been so well seconded by friends of the school in America, that sufficient funds are already in hand to erect and furnish a suitable home for the school, which will be ready for occupation in October. To place the enterprise in a position to attain the greatest possible usefulness, an endowment of at least a hundred thousand dollars ought to be secured. Plenty of work lies before the school. Prof. Martin L. D'Ooge of the University of Michigan, the director for 1886-87, writes that the French government is not likely to accept the offer, made by the Greek authorities, of the privilege of making excavations at Delphi, and in that event the chance will be offered to the Americans.

We may fitly end this brief account of the American school at Athens with the glowing words of Professor Goodwin himself upon this very subject: "The Archeological society of Athens has disclosed a wealth of ancient temples near Epidaurus, — among others, the beautiful round building erected by Polycletus, and the theatre, also his work; and the same society has opened to the day the foundations and the pavement of the great sanctuary of Eleusis, the home of the Eleusinian mysteries, which offers more problems to architects and archeologists than will soon be answered. Every part of Greece is full of plans for new excavations, which merely need money to be carried out with substantial results. The ruins of Delphi, with their countless buried temples, which peer imploringly from the scanty earth, as if beseeching the traveller to restore them to the light of the sun, lie at this moment waiting only for some power to decide who shall excavate them; and happy will be the scholars who are fortunate enough to be in Greece when the solemn silence of that wonderful valley of Delphi is first broken by the pickaxe and the spade."

JOHN S. WHITE.

LONDON LETTER.

THAT the people of England are at last beginning to realize the immense importance of technical education is evident from two facts, — first, that scarcely a week passes without prominence being given by the press to utterances on the subject by public men; and, second, that pressure is being put on the government to extend such in-

struction. A few days ago Lord Hartington distributed the prizes at the Polytechnic young men's Christian institute, an organization in the west of London which numbers seven thousand students in technical subjects; and his speech, in which he quoted Professor Huxley, was widely circulated and favorably commented upon. During the present week a very influential deputation was received at the education department, which strongly urged the provision of manual training in all elementary schools, as a preparation for technical instruction later. It was pointed out that a very slight modification of existing organizations would enable this to be done at a small expense. The reply of the government, though sympathetic, was to the effect that parliament had not yet pronounced an opinion on the subject.

On the evening of March 16 a very well arranged and largely attended *conversazione* was held at the Central institution of the city and guilds of London, for the advancement of technical education. Demonstrations were given during the evening by members of the staff, notably by Professor Unwin, F.R.S., with the 100-ton testing-machine. The apparatus and methods of instruction employed were on view in the different laboratories, and interesting exhibits, lent for the occasion, were also displayed. Two concerts added to the enjoyment of the fifteen hundred guests; but it was rather unkind to allot, as a ladies' cloak-room, a room on the door of which was inscribed, 'Chemical preparation room.'

Lecturing a few nights ago to a crowded audience at the Royal institution, on 'Mental differences in men and women,' Dr. Romanes remarked that the average woman's brain weighed five ounces less than the average man's, and that the inferiority of women displayed itself in the absence of originality in the higher levels of intellectual work. In powers of acquisition, women stood nearer to men, and indeed often surpassed them at an early age.

On Tuesday, March 15, a most unusual meteorological state of things prevailed in London, which was at the time under the influence of the calm weather between two systems of depression. Snow fell to the depth of a foot or more, — and it did not disappear for more than a week, — and simultaneously a high fog occurred, literally causing midnight at noon and for some hours after, although the lower strata of air were fairly clear, and devoid of mist. In consequence of the unexpected sudden consumption of gas, the supply thereof ran short, and in many places grave inconvenience and danger resulted.

M. Hermite's process of the electrolytic bleach-