

potentialities in the near future will enhance the value of the services of the trained statistician. The consular and diplomatic service, as well as other fields of government administration, come under the same necessity."

One of the objections urged against the civil academy is that we have already plenty of colleges, amply equipped with facilities for political education, — a point which is sufficiently answered by the distinction between 'political science' and 'political praxis.' Political science can be acquired in a tolerably satisfactory manner in many of our institutions of learning, but political praxis is the special product of contact and experience with administrative work. An academy in Washington, with the most favorable environment that could be found, for the prosecution of theoretical studies, and which furnishes contemporaneously the opportunity for apprenticeship work, manifestly embodies the ideal thing.

Without contesting what seems to be a favorite proposition with many journalists, that 'American statesmen come up from the masses,' that they, like poets, are born, not made, it is only fair to add that the country has likewise suffered much from assumed heaven-born genius in high places. This fact we are too apt to lose sight of, and think only of conspicuous examples of statesmanship where the only educational training has been the village school. Is it not true that more statesmen who have come up from the masses have turned out to be incubi to congressional society than glittering lights in the political firmament? No argument can be founded upon the statement before mentioned, for it is certain that no genius would be spoiled by scientific political study; that much might be developed that otherwise would never be utilized.

The strong point of the civil academy is its practical side. Leaving out the disputed question of government aid to higher education, there can be no doubt of the wisdom of expenditure which will create trained and skilful administrators. Colonel Wright says, "The government should supplement college-training with practical administrative instruction, acquired through positive service in its own departments." Statesmen may be born, but administrators must be made. What may be understood as technical training is as much required for them as for the army and navy officer. Whether we will or no, the complexity of modern state life is increasing, is certain to increase still more, and

we must prepare to meet the change. I do not think we can check the growth of state interference in matters which were once considered of purely personal and private concern, but we can and must regulate it. How? In two ways, — by multiplying the means for obtaining accurate information upon economic and social conditions, and by basing legislation upon ascertained facts. Congressmen must be able to do more than put themselves 'on record' in favor of labor: they must grasp the true inwardness of the labor-problem in its details. Administrators must not be content with the performance of perfunctory duties: they must be ready, when called upon, to furnish facts suggestive of useful constructive legislation. The training of both must be provided for, and the civil academy offers the combination of advantages to be desired.

E. R. L. GOULD.

Washington, D.C., June 4.

Sea-sickness.

It is true that many deaf-mutes are known to have enjoyed what seems to be a surprising immunity from sea-sickness; but it cannot be said, that, as a class, they are exempt from the misery we all so much dread.

I travelled last summer on the Pacific Ocean with a number of deaf-mutes, some of whom paid their tribute to Neptune with the best of us who hear.

It is my opinion, however, that there is ground for Dr. James's statement (*Science*, June 3), if care be taken not to say that a deaf-mute cannot be made sea-sick.

If I may say a word from my own experience of a number of ocean-voyages, with a decided tendency to be sea sick, I think great help may be had by keeping in one's berth at the first approach of rough weather, eating moderately, and not rising until the processes of digestion and assimilation have had time to be quite fully completed after at least two or three meals.

E. M. GALLAUDET.

Kendall Green, Washington, June 4.

Garbage-disposal.

Your note as to garbage-disposition in Milwaukee does not express the present state of affairs. The health officers of the surrounding towns have forbidden the entrance of garbage-wagons into their districts. At present many plans are under discussion, but none has yet been fixed upon. The furnace plan finds much favor.

ARTHUR STEVENS.

Milwaukee, Wis., June 4.

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