would doubtless be in existence to-day, having had nearly ten years of experience, which would have enabled it to cope with any epidemic which might visit our shores. But petty jealousies arose, and as a result that board has now no existence. Its work was of the best, and five volumes of its records attest this fact. The need of a national health department in some form was dwelt upon at length by the president, Dr. Sternberg, in his address. He thinks that at the present time it would be useless to ask that the sanitary interests be placed under the charge of another cabinet officer, a minister of public health, but that sanitarians should demand that their interests receive the same consideration from the national government as is accorded to the educational and industrial interests of the country. He recommends the organization of a bureau of public health, with a commissioner at its head, with the necessary assistance to make it efficient. It has been suggested that a board of health would be better than this plan contemplates, its members coming from different sections of the country. Dr. Sternberg is right, we think, when he speaks of such a board as not calculated to do the best work. Another plan is to have such a board made up of the surgeon-generals of the army, navy, and marine-hospital service; but these officers are already fully occupied with their duties, and could not with advantage undertake the executive work of a central health bureau. Such a board would act well as an advisory body, but its work should be limited to that. It is sincerely to be hoped, that, as a result of the discussion of this important question, the next Congress will provide for a central health organization. Such action would meet with the hearty support of sanitarians throughout the United States, and would do much to quiet the minds of these gentlemen who to-day look with anxiety and concern upon the possibilities which might occur should cholera or other epidemic disease visit this country in the present unsettled condition of its sanitary administration.

SNOW HALL OF NATURAL HISTORY AT LAWRENCE, KAN.

THE Legislature of the State of Kansas, during its biennial session of the year 1885, appropriated fifty thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a natural history building for the University of Kansas. The erection of such a building was rendered imperative by the extensive botanical, entomological, zoölogical, and geological collections brought together under the supervision of Prof. F. H. Snow, whose connection with the institution dates from its foundation in the year 1866. The building was completed in the autumn of 1886, and was formally named and dedicated to the purposes for which it was erected, on Nov. 16 of that year. It has two principal stories, each sixteen feet in height, together with a basement and attic so commodious and well lighted as to make the structure practically four stories in height. The building from basement floor to attic roof is divided into two portions, partially separated from each other by the main entrance-hall and stairways. The portion to the west of the entrance is devoted to the exhibition of the various cabinets, while the opposite portion is assigned to the work of instruction. The collections belonging to each department are upon the same floor with the laboratories of that department, easily accessible to both students and instructors. The arrangement of the various apartments is so well indicated in the accompanying plans as to require no verbal description. This arrangement was suggested by Mr. J. H. Emerton of New Haven, Conn., who furnished the preliminary plans which formed the basis upon which the Legislature was solicited to make the appropriation. Mr. Emerton's outlines were placed in the hands of Architect J. G. Haskell of Topeka, Kan., who completed the architectural adaptations in the matters of construction, light, heat, ventilation, and exterior style, in a successful and satisfactory manner. The rooms most naturally grouped themselves so as to form a rectangular building; but for the purpose of increasing the volume of light, and also improving the architectural effect, their form was somewhat changed.

The building is most admirably lighted; the volume being so great that on a cloudy day the occupants of laboratories need not seek proximity to the windows for microscopical work, and the museum halls may have cases arranged in any desired relation. The large museum rooms are lighted on three sides, and necessarily have one side not lighted. To prevent this from being a dark side, a plate-glass window, eight feet wide and eleven feet high, opposite the centre of the unlighted wall, was added to the ordinary means of lighting, and has the effect of giving uniformity of volume throughout the entire space.

The exterior is in the Romanesque style, with rock-face ashlar and cut stone dressings, the stone being from the well-known Cottonwood quarries of Kansas. The main approach is by a broad flight of buttressed stone steps under a handsomely decorated portico, the decorations being suggestive of the uses of the building. Numerous stone panels are provided about the building, which may, if desired, be utilized for illustrations of natural history subjects cut in bas-relief.

The construction of the building is nearly fire-proof. All bearing-girders are of iron, and all floors are deadened with mortar on corrugated iron laid between the joists. All partitions are non-combustible, all lathing is of wire cloth, the roof is covered with slate and dressed with iron cornices, ridge and hip rolls. All interior finish is polished hard wood, so that little material is presented to feed combustion.

Heating is by steam, the 'indirect' method being employed to furnish the rooms with warm fresh air, and the 'direct' method for securing proper temperature.

Fresh air is introduced into the building by means of a 'plenum' extending under the entire building, and connecting with the outer air by arched openings and areas. Ventilation is accomplished by means of large flues leading from near floor and ceiling of all rooms to a large iron chamber in the attic, in which sufficient radiation is located to insure a successful movement of the foul air through a ventilating cupola to the exterior.

The construction of the building was by contract with McFarland & Son of Lawrence, and completion was accomplished within the prescribed appropriation, and without 'extras.'

INDIAN WHEAT.

AT a recent meeting of the English Farmer's Club, Professor Wallace of Edinburgh University read a paper on agriculture in India.

Professor Wallace said he went to India not only to study agriculture in view of the important influence it was likely to exercise over British agriculture, and forestry in view of the likelihood of a chair of forestry being established at his university, but he had the further object of wishing to see for himself why it was that the government had practically given up the idea of improving Indian agriculture. He found that the apathy on the part of the government in the direction of advancing agriculture was exhibited not only in the case of the native scholars, but was general. Practically all that was left of the Agricultural Department was the name, and this was not always recognized in the presidencies. The ryots' faith in the proposals of the government to improve their practices had entirely vanished. The speaker then went on to explain the character of the Indian cattle, and showed that these were raised, not for meat, but for sinew; and he pointed out the lessons to be learned from color, the black cattle better resisting heat. As to the wheat-growing, he said, that, in order to produce wheat for the market, the ryots increased the area cultivated by taking in more land from the wastes or jungle the most convenient, in the first instance, to their holdings; but, in addition to this, they grew wheat in many cases in place of some other crop. There was a limit to the extension of the so-called 'substitution' wheat area; and the area of extended wheat-growth was, as time went on, always becoming more difficult to increase, and, even after difficulties are surmounted, less remunerative. A tract of country where extension would be the main source of wheat-supply skirted the eastern border of the desert of north-western India. Supplies of wheat were also expected to be forthcoming from the rich black soils of the southern Mahratta country when the railway communication was better established. It had been thought by some that the future supplies of Indian wheat would so increase as to flood the English markets to