

month, and in a few weeks decimated all the towns in the south of France. Although the Italian authorities on the boundaries between France and Switzerland attempted to stay the progress of the epidemic by imposing the most rigid system of quarantine of all persons and things from infected localities, the disease had passed all sanitary cordons before the end of August, and was numbering its victims daily by hundreds in various parts of Italy. Despite every effort of the health authorities, it crossed the Pyrenees early in 1855, and began the work of destruction in Spain. Before the close of the year it had counted more than a hundred thousand victims in that country. The year following (1886), a passenger-steamer with Italian immigrants landed the pestilence at Rosario, in South America. The *cordon sanitaire* established in the passes of the Andes by the States of the west coast of South America did not prevent the disease from reaching and ravaging many of the great cities and towns on the western coast. Sept. 23, 1887, and again in the month following, cholera sought to invade our country through Italian immigrants, as it had done in South America the year previous. The story of its advent, arrest, and destruction at quarantine, has been told in my report for 1887. In the five previous invasions of Europe by this disease during the present century, it had succeeded in every instance in reaching our shores, and developing into epidemic proportions. The failure of the pestilence to secure a foothold in our country last year was a triumph, but under difficulties such as the quarantine officials at this port, it is hoped, may not again be called upon to encounter."

Extensive repairs and improvements are now in progress at the quarantine establishment, which will, in the opinion of the health-officer, supply all the conditions necessary to secure the country from any possibility of an epidemic of infectious or contagious disease which may approach from the sea. For this purpose the Legislature has appropriated \$121,843. The disinfecting-rooms are thus described. The disinfecting-rooms are divided into three airtight compartments, with sides and ceilings made of four-inch oak plank covered with felt and galvanized iron, with doors and levers to each compartment; the outer walls of brick being built hollow so as to retain the heat. The floors are concrete and asphalt, on iron beams and masonry arches. The size of the disinfecting-rooms are two 14 by 19 feet, and one 12 by 19 feet, each 7 feet high. Each disinfecting compartment will be supplied with wire baskets supported on rollers, large enough to hold one immigrant's baggage, arranged in tiers with sufficient interspace to insure the admission of hot or moist steam with the least possible obstruction. The arrangement contemplates the use of moist steam for a few moments before the introduction of superheated steam. The introduction of moist steam first will secure the destruction of the disease germs by superheated steam more certainly and at less temperature, and thereby lessen the danger of injury of the fabrics exposed to a high temperature. In the boiler-room underneath will be placed exhaust-pumps with separate connections to each room, that the air can be exhausted; so that the articles to be treated may be easily penetrated by the moist steam, as well as other chemicals that may be used in the disinfecting process. The rooms, after being used, will be ventilated into a shaft surrounding the boiler-flue. The superheater will be located under the disinfecting-room, with all the necessary apparatus outside of the rooms, showing pressure and temperature.

In 1887 Dr. Smith recommended that a crematory be erected on Swinburne Island, for the cremation of those who die of contagious disease. This was deemed advisable on account of the unfavorable location of the burial-ground at Seguin's Point, near the extreme southern portions of Staten Island, and ten miles from the hospital. Twenty thousand dollars has been appropriated for the purpose, and the quarantine commissioners have been empowered to cause to be incinerated in such crematory the bodies of persons dying at the quarantine hospital from contagious or infectious diseases; provided, however, that "they shall not incinerate the bodies of any persons, dying as aforesaid, whose religious views as communicated by them while living, or by their friends within twenty-four hours after their decease, are opposed to cremation."

THE Eiffel Tower has now attained its full height of 984 feet.

## BOOK-REVIEWS.

*The Student's Atlas.* By RICHARD A. PROCTOR. London and New York, Longmans, Green, & Co. 8°. \$1.50.

THE object of the present atlas is not to convey detailed information on the geographical conditions of limited areas, but to teach the relations between continents and oceans,—an important part of geography-teaching, which has hitherto been sadly neglected. The author says in his introduction, "In studying the geography of the earth as a whole, in considering the larger problems of geology, in reading history ancient and modern, in discussing problems relating to trade and commerce, and in dealing with many other subjects of inquiry, occasion constantly arises for the means of recognizing clearly and readily the relations of the different parts of the earth to each other. An ordinary atlas shows us Europe and it shows us North America, but it presents the two continents on different scales, and, except in the imperfect maps of the two hemispheres or the still more misleading Mercator's charts, it does not show how the two continents are situated with regard to each other. Of the Atlantic Ocean, which is almost as important and interesting a region of our earth as any continent, the ordinary atlas gives no map at all. Any one who wishes to note the nature and relative directions of the tracks across the Atlantic between different parts of the surrounding shores can learn nothing from an ordinary atlas except what is false and misleading. It is the same with all the oceans." For such reasons, which cannot be remedied in an ordinary atlas, the author considers it desirable to have a companion atlas, treating the earth as a whole. The plan the author has pursued is to divide the earth's surface on the twelve faces of a dodecahedron, each map being made to include the spherical surface circumscribing the pentagonal face of the dodecahedron. Thus each map embraces a little more than one-tenth of the earth's surface, and overlaps with the five neighboring maps, thus giving a good understanding of the relative position of the parts of the earth's surface. The projection chosen is Postel's equidistant projection, the centre of each pentagon being taken as the centre of the projection. This results in comparatively small distortion of scale and angle. The maps are well executed; the political divisions are designated by different colors. The topography is very sketchy. The course of ocean-currents is indicated,

## AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE Century Company have just completed their monumental work on the "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War." An index to the four volumes is appended to the thirty-second and final part. In concluding this handsome and valuable work, the publishers may justly feel proud of the achievement.

—C. W. Bardeen, Syracuse, N.Y., will publish May 15 an interesting historical guide-book entitled "Carleton Island in the Revolution: the Old Fort and its Builders," with notes and brief biographical sketches, and illustrations by Carleton.

—Belford, Clarke, & Co. will publish shortly William H. Herndon's "Life of Abraham Lincoln." Mr. Herndon was for some years the law-partner of Abraham Lincoln, and knew him perhaps as intimately as any person apart from his immediate family.

—The M. L. Holbrook Company have just ready "Studies of the Outlying Fields of Psychic Science," a work by Hudson Tuttle, who aims to explain the vast array of facts in his field of research by referring them to a common cause, and furnishes nearly fifty pages of "personal experience and intelligence from the sphere of light."

—People who are interested in the prohibitory amendment which is now before the State of Massachusetts for popular vote, will find a concise statement of the entire legislation in recent years in "Ten Years of Massachusetts," by Raymond L. Bridgman, published by D. C. Heath & Co. of Boston. It includes the years 1878 to 1887; and among other important enactments of that period, are the civil damage law, the screen law, the schoolhouse law, and the temperance text-books law. Every new effort of the State to repress liquor-selling is mentioned, and the text of the most important passages is given *verbatim*.