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SOME TIME SINCE, WE REFERRED to the appointment of a commission by the New York City Board of Health for the purpose of formulating a concise statement regarding the contagiousness of tuberculosis and the means of protection therefrom. This commission was formed of Drs. Prudden, Biggs, and Loomis, pathologists to the Board of Health, and in this number we publish their report. In this report the position is taken that consumption is not necessarily an hereditary disease, and that in certain stages its cure is possible. If this dread disease may now be ranked among preventable evils, it is desirable that this should be widely known, and that the means by which this result may be reached may be understood by the public at large. To aid a free discussion of the questions at issue, we print on one of our advertising pages a few questions to which we should be pleased to receive answers.

THE REPORT of the superintendent of health of Providence, a full abstract of which we give in this number, contains many items of interest. The most important of these is the statement that typhoid-fever germs were found in three of the filters in use in that city, in houses where typhoid-fever existed. In this report Dr. Chapin states that the house-filters in common use collect filth and microbes from the water, and act as incubators for the latter. There is no doubt, that, when first put into use, a filter may be of advantage so far as sifting out the grosser particles of suspended matter; but it soon becomes itself filthy, and the constantly accumulating filth furnishes the most favorable nidus for the growth of disease-germs.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL of the discovery of oxygen at Priestley's grave at Northumberland, Penn., in 1874, by a gathering of distinguished American chemists, was the occasion for the suggestion of the formation of an American chemical society, with headquarters in New York. This suggestion was due principally to H. Carrington Bolton; but nothing resulted until 1876, when the American Chemical Society was started, with J. W. Draper as president. After him Dr. J. Lawrence Smith, Professor C. H. Chandler, and Dr. James C. Booth filled the presidential chair. The meetings flourished for a time; but, after a little, the more prominent New York members failed to appear with any regularity, and the management of the society fell into the hands of the lesser members, with the result of a languishing condition of affairs ever since. Some two or three years ago the matter was brought up at a meeting of the American Association, and the formation of a national chemical society, with headquarters at Washington, was advocated. This did not, however, meet the views of all; and a proposal is now made that the American Chemical Society shall be resuscitated, and that the meetings shall be held in conjunction with the meetings of the American Association for the advancement of Science. A committee has been appointed to consider this matter at the Toronto meeting, and delegates from the American Chemical Society and from the chemical section of the Franklin Institute have been appointed.

CLARK UNIVERSITY.

CLARK UNIVERSITY was founded by the munificence of a native of Worcester County, whose plans, conceived more than twenty years ago, have gradually grown with his fortune. His affairs have been so arranged as to allow long intervals for travel and study. During eight years thus spent, the leading foreign institutions of learning, old and new, were visited, and their records gathered and read. These studies centred about the means by which the highest culture of one generation is best transmitted to the ablest youths of the next, and especially about the external conditions most favorable for increasing the sum of human knowledge. To the improvement of these means and the enlargement of these conditions, the new university will be devoted.

It is the strong and express desire of the founder that the highest possible academic standards be here forever maintained; that special opportunities and inducements be offered to research; that to this end the instructors be not overburdened with teaching or examinations; that all available experience, both of older countries and our own, be freely utilized; and that new measures, and even innovations, if really helpful to the highest needs of modern science and culture, be no less freely adopted; in fine, that the great opportunities of a new foundation in this land and age be diligently explored and improved.

He has chosen Worcester as the seat of the new foundation after mature deliberation, first, because its location is central among the best colleges of the East, and, by supplementing rather than duplicating their work, he hopes to advance all their interests, and to secure their good will and active support, that together further steps may be taken in the development of superior education in New England; and, second, because he believes the culture of this city will insure that enlightened public opinion indispensable in maintaining these educational standards at their highest, and that its wealth will insure the perpetual increase of revenue required by the rapid progress of science.

As the first positive step towards the realization of these long-formed plans, Mr. Clark invited the following gentlemen to constitute with himself a board of trustees: Stephen Salisbury, Charles Devens, George F. Hoar, William W. Rice, Joseph Sargent,[1] John D. Washburn, Frank P. Goulding, and George Swan.

[1] Died Oct. 12, 1888.