

are full of sensational stories relating to the personal relations of the testatrix, her husband, and the responsible officers of the university; the one side attempting to justify the action of the will-breakers by asserting injustice on the opposite side, the other side defending the action of the university authorities. The public are not concerned in that phase of the matter, and the university authorities evidently feel themselves unaffected by the gossip of the newspapers. Mr. Sage, a year ago, began the erection of a great library building to be given the university as a memorial of the originally intending giver if the suit should be lost, or to be paid for by her bequest should the university hold its own in the case. He gives also \$300,000 as an endowment, the income to be applied solely to the purchase of books. Most colleges would be considered fortunate if given so much, even failing to obtain a \$2,000,000 library. Practically the university gains: it loses a million which it never possessed; but it gains a positive quantity in the half million and over, which is now actually passing into its possession. It is the impression of some of its best-informed friends that it will ultimately actually gain through awakened sympathy and interest, and the gifts likely to be the practical expression of that interest and sympathy, more than the amount now seemingly so unfortunately lost. It is very certain, also, that some of this scattered property will come directly back to the university by the action of the receivers of what they regard as unfairly acquired property.

This affair seems to have no effect on the plans of the university authorities. They will begin the next year with an enlarged teaching force, new and distinguished professors in the faculty, a \$10,000 equipment in illustrations of the work of classical instruction, a new chemical laboratory to accommodate six hundred, a physical laboratory of double the space now occupied, new workshops doubling the present area and capable of handling six hundred Sibley College men, new mechanical laboratory arrangements of nearly proportional extent, a new foundry and new forge large enough to meet a similar growth, and engines (experimental and other), boilers of 600 horse-power, and dynamos more numerous and powerful in the aggregate than can be found elsewhere in the world.

All this looks very much as if Cornell University and the Sibley College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering were likely to survive for a time still.

HEALTH MATTERS.

Another Forty Days' Fast.

SIGNOR SUCCI, who is gaining the reputation of being a "hunger virtuoso," completed in May a fast of forty days in London. The medical journals of that city credit him with the genuine performance of the feat. Signor Succi has done no more than our own Tanner, but he has been subjected to a more careful physiological study, and he has shown that a forty-days' fast is possible to more than one human being. During the last days of his fast, Succi lost about half a pound a day, his temperature remained normal, but his pulse was more than ordinarily rapid. The lesson of Signor Succi's experiment, says the *Medical Record*, is one that has often been taught before, and it is that people eat too much, and, in this country at least, drink too little. More diseases come from excessive and intemperate feeding than from alcohol, for wrong feeding is the basis of gouty, rheumatic, diabetic, and obese diatheses; as well as of an infinite number of gastrointestinal ills.

Excision of Local Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At the recent congress of the German Society for Surgery, Professor Tillmanns exhibited a man of about thirty years, from whom he had removed a tubercular deposit involving a portion of the left lung, pleura, and thorax. After the operation the lung contracted in such a manner that by a second operation the remaining tubercular area was completely removed. The wound was covered with cutaneous flaps and healed completely, and the patient is now able to work. As the operation was performed about two years ago, the cure may be regarded as permanent.

Tillmanns thinks that the surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis is proper if the disease is localized, but that in most cases two operations will be required,—the first to expose the affected part in order to bring about atrophy and contraction; the second to remove the disease.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*** Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.*

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

On request, twenty copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent.

Practical Applications of Meteorology.

IN the United States the making of weather predictions has been the chief use of meteorological observations for so long a time, that few persons have taken the trouble to consider the manifold applications of this class of data. In order to bring this matter to the notice of those who are interested in, but not informed on, this practically very important question, I have given below, in a roughly systematic manner, some few of the many points which should be taken into consideration in the framing of any future plans for extending the usefulness of meteorology in our country. In order to show with any considerable degree of fulness the exact relation of meteorology to practical life, it would be necessary to devote the space allowed for a magazine article to each one of the separate headings which I have assumed as conveniently and appropriately marking the subdivisions of the whole subject; so that, in the present paper, only a few lines can be devoted to each topic. This is mentioned in order to explain the omission of many points which could be readily suggested as being of equal importance with those mentioned.

1. AGRICULTURE.—We have but to note the gradual change in the character of plant-life with the increase of latitude or altitude, in order to see what an all-important factor climate is, in marking the limits of individual plant-growth. Some plants require a preponderance of heat, others of moisture, and still others of sunlight, in order to bring them to maturity. Civilized nations have long since ceased relying on indigenous plants; but, in order to transplant successfully from one country to another, it is necessary to know something of the climates of the two countries. Meteorologists are constantly extending their network of observing-stations, and are thus reducing the areas the climates of which are unknown. When the agricultural physicists shall have determined the climatic constants of all our useful plants, it will be possible to foretell the successful, or the probability of successful, cultivation of any of these plants, when we know the latitude, longitude, and altitude above sea-level, of the place of planting.

We need better systems of estimating the condition of plant-growth during the period from sprouting to ripening (or harvesting). Reliable estimates of this kind would be a valuable criterion for market prices of produce. The usefulness of storm predictions, frost warnings, and cold-wave predictions, is so well established that we only take space to say that the non-fulfilment of the latter causes great loss to farmers who slaughter their own animals.

2. COMMERCE.—In dictating what can or shall not be grown in any particular country, climate controls indirectly the nature of the articles carried from one country to another. Merchants will not send articles intended for a hot climate to a cold climate, and *vice versa*. Still, a great many sailing-vessels are employed in trade, and their navigators pay the strictest attention to the laws of winds which have been discovered to hold good for various quarters of the globe. This knowledge often makes a saving of months in a long voyage. Storm-predictions are of special importance to our coast shipping and to fishermen; but the recent inquiries instituted by the German Government show that storms must be predicted considerably in advance to render such forecasting of real use. In shipping perishable produce it is of great importance to know whether damaging weather is likely to occur during the transit, frosts being the principal danger which the shipper must guard against. A meteorological record extending