

tutions in this country, is that so little is known of what others are doing and, consequently, a great deal of human effort is needlessly wasted. Much sciolistic conceit would be also avoided if this publication, with its preceding series and additional data from the 'Index Catalogue,' could be properly utilized, and medical literature would be a far more satisfactory thing than it is at present. Brown-Sequard, the celebrated French physiologist, used to bitterly complain of the amount of rediscovery of his work that he was constantly seeing in the German literature. It is only by such bibliographies as the 'Index Medicus' that much of this can be avoided. We hope the subscription list will be at least quadrupled. The very moderate subscription price, \$5, puts it within the reach of everyone who is attempting to do any medical literary work, and no one should attempt that without having at least access to its aid. We do not believe in multiplication of references or unnecessarily elaborate bibliographies, and the rule of verifying one's references by the originals, of course, is a good one to be followed, but there is no better first guide to medical literature than the 'Index Medicus' as now presented to the profession.—*Journal of the American Medical Association.*

#### THE PRESIDENCY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

THE University of Virginia, after adhering for over eighty years to the plan of government devised by its founder, Thomas Jefferson, now decides to conform to the practice of other American universities and to elect a president. From the names suggested for the office it may be inferred that it is a 'business' president that is wanted. No doubt, the trustees of the university know best the needs of the institution, and it may be that in the modern competition in education it is necessary to sacrifice individual characteristics. An enlightened despotism, more or less tempered by trustee or overseer supervision, can accomplish much in a short time from both the financial and the educational points of view, as Harvard shows. It is possible, therefore, that the change may bring immediate prosperity to the University of Virginia.

All the same, regret must be felt that a system devised by the great Democrat with the deliberate purpose of eliminating the one-man power, a system that has proved efficient and successful in its scholarly results and in the character of the men trained under it, should disappear in the modern craving for uniformity and for quick material gains.—*New York Sun.*

#### CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

##### GENERAL CIRCULATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

AN important publication is the report on the general circulation of the atmosphere, prepared by Dr. Hildebrandsson as Part I. of the 'Rapport sur les Observations internationales des Nuages' for the International Meteorological Committee (Upsala, 1903, large 8vo., pp. 48, pls. XXII.). This is a brief historical presentation of the theories of the general circulation of the atmosphere advanced by Dove, Maury, Ferrel and Thomson, and an examination of the results of cloud observations made at stations in different parts of the world in their bearing on these theories. These results, which include the latest and best obtainable, are presented graphically in a series of twenty-two charts, for stations selected because of their position in certain critical latitudes. Thus, among these stations are found the following: San José de Costa Rica; 'Square No. 3' (Lat. 0°–10° N.; Long. 20°–30° W.); Manila; Mauritius; San Fernando and Lisbon; Havana; Lahore, Allahabad and Calcutta; Kurrachee, Bombay and Cuttack; Blue Hill; Paris; several in England, Germany and Denmark; Upsala, and others in Sweden, Norway, Siberia, China, Japan. Dr. Hildebrandsson, as is well known, has already done most important work in his study of cloud forms and cloud measurements, and he has been one of the moving spirits in the international investigation of cloud heights and velocities. He is, therefore, the meteorologist who is perhaps best fitted to undertake the discussion in hand, and his conclusions, which are based on a thorough study of data carefully compared and digested, will be received with satisfaction and accepted with confidence. So important are some of these conclusions in their bearing on