

ratory or tents, cottages or hotel accommodations available on the Point.

The new laboratory building which will accommodate at least one hundred students and investigators is already under construction under contract to be finished by June 15. This building includes four large laboratory rooms that will accommodate twenty to twenty-five students each in general work, two lecture rooms, four small laboratory rooms for special classes and rooms for about twenty research students or investigators, also private rooms for instructors, store room, dark rooms and other conveniences.

The location is about a half mile from the docks and buildings of the Pleasure Resort thus making it convenient to steamers and for mail, express, etc., but far enough away so that the work will not be interfered with by the patrons of the resort, nor will the virgin conditions of forest, beach and dunes be likely to suffer change for generations to come.

COMMITTEE ON THE PURITY OF CHEMICALS.

At the last annual meeting of the American Chemical Society, held in Washington in December, a committee, consisting of Professors Baskerville, Dennis, Hillebrand, Talbot and the president of the society as chairman, *ex officio*, was appointed to investigate the question of the purity of chemicals sold as pure for use as reagents. It is held by many analytical chemists that the quality of the reagents as furnished by dealers is far from satisfactory, and below the grade sold some years ago. It is also well known that the designations 'C. P.', 'Chemically Pure' and 'Strictly Pure' as employed by certain dealers are practically meaningless. The committee wishes to discover the extent of the evil complained of in order to be able to suggest a remedy. Chemists who are interested in the matter and who are acquainted with facts bearing on the subject are invited to communicate their information to Professor H. P. Talbot, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston.

TYPHOID FEVER AT PALO ALTO AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

THE following are the facts in relation to the outbreak of typhoid fever in Palo Alto.

During the past winter, a dairy formerly of good repute, lying about four miles from Palo Alto, was leased to a Portuguese family. In this family, in March, a death occurred from typhoid fever. Two of the three houses stand on the bank of a brook which bounds the cattle yard. From this brook a wooden channel carries water to a large wooden trough within the yard. In this trough the cans and pails of the dairy were washed.

From the house, the excreta of the fever patient seem to have been thrown, Latin-fashion, on the ground, to be washed by the rains into the brook, and thence into the trough.

One of the milkmen supplying the town of Palo Alto bought milk from this Parreiro dairy. About April 6 cases of fever appeared in Palo Alto. The water supply of the town, as well as that of the university, from deep driven wells, was found above suspicion. This dairy was examined, bacilli were found in its milk, and on April 8 the milk route was closed. In this period, however, many people had taken the milk, and in the next three weeks there were upwards of 150 cases in the town, 80 of them being students of Stanford University.

On the university campus, a mile away, about 850 of the 1,480 students of the university live. Two fraternity houses on the campus were served with milk from Parreiro's. In one of these houses fourteen out of twenty persons were attacked. In the other four out of twenty. In the university dormitories, and in the remaining fraternities there have been a few cases, persons who had eaten at a Palo Alto restaurant or had been guests at some infected house.

About 110 cases have developed among the students of the university, and there have been four deaths, all in Palo Alto. The source of infection was promptly detected. The period of incubation, about three weeks, is now past; every care has been taken to pre-