

The present situation can be remedied satisfactorily in but one way. Col. W. C. Gorgas is known to be one of the most expert sanitarians now living. He is a man whose courage is of that exalted character which scorns personal danger, a man of integrity, of executive ability and worthy of the fullest confidence of the government. Why not repeat the experience of Cuba in Panama? Why go back to the old methods of crippling the usefulness of the Army Medical Corps by permitting it to be blocked by circumlocution or entangled in the meshes of red tape until it might almost as well not exist?

The people of the United States will oppose the president's removal of the present commission, and if he will go further and put an end to this dangerous condition of affairs by placing Col. Gorgas in full authority in all matters pertaining to sanitation he will deserve still greater credit. In the construction of the Panama Canal the question of sanitation is paramount.—*The N. Y. Sun.*

BOTANICAL NOTES.

A HELPFUL BULLETIN.

THE office of Experiment Stations of the United States Department of Agriculture has issued a Bulletin (No. 2) consisting of an outline of a lecture on 'Potato Diseases and Their Treatment' for the use of farmers' institute lecturers. It was prepared by F. C. Stewart and H. J. Eustace, of the New York Experiment Station. It contains summaries of our knowledge of the most important diseases which affect the potato in the United States. The descriptions are given in non-technical language, and ought to convince every botanist of the possibility of treating quite difficult subjects in plain English. Following the description of diseases is an admirable chapter on spraying and other preventive measures. A very useful bibliography is added in an appendix.

SEASIDE LABORATORIES.

It is a fortunate thing for the scientific students of America that year by year the opportunities for seaside study are more common and easily accessible. Some of us re-

member the time, not so very long ago either, when Agassiz's laboratory on Penikese Island was the only place where seaside studies were possible under competent guidance and supervision. The Penikese laboratory has long since ceased to be—on the death of its illustrious founder it could not secure adequate support. It died, and men spoke of it as another visionary project which had met with the usual fate of an early death after a brief and fitful existence. But although that project died, others have arisen to more than take its place. To-day laboratories that include the essential features of the one founded by Agassiz are not uncommon on both coasts of the United States, as well as on the shores of our inland waters.

The eighteenth session of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., is of interest to the botanist not only on account of the botanical courses offered, but also because this is to a certain extent the lineal descendant of the Penikese laboratory whose abandoned site is but a few miles away. As heretofore, the work in botany is to be under the direction of Professor Doctor Bradley M. Davis, of the University of Chicago.

There are the usual opportunities for investigation for advanced students, and regular instruction in the morphology of thallophytes, cytological studies and plant physiology. The laboratory is open for investigation from June 1 to October 1, and for instruction from June 28 to August 9.

On the west coast of Vancouver Island, at Port Renfrew, twenty-six hundred miles from the Woods Hole laboratory, is the Minnesota Seaside Station, whose fifth session is announced for the present year, under the directorship of Professor Conway MacMillan, of the University of Minnesota. Although so far away from the pioneer Penikese laboratory, this one on Vancouver Island is filled also with the spirit of the master who taught us to study nature out of doors. Here, in addition to opportunities for investigation, botanical courses are offered in algology, lichenology, bacteriology, taxonomy of the Coniferæ and nature study. The session begins July 8 and closes August 18.

It is interesting to compare these two marine stations—the first on the New England mainland, looking across to Martha's Vineyard, and the Elizabeth Islands, with the interesting flora of the north Atlantic coast, rich in many red seaweeds; and the second on the shore of Vancouver Island, looking out across the Strait of Juan de Fuca, to Cape Flattery, and the Olympic Mountains of the northwest corner of Washington. Here the marine flora is especially rich in the great kelps so characteristic of the Pacific coast of North America.

UTAH FUNGI.

SOME months ago Mr. A. O. Garrett, of Salt Lake City, issued the first fascicle of twenty-five numbers of Utah fungi under the title of 'Fungi Utahenses.' This fascicle is devoted to the Uredineæ, and it is the author's intention to follow this plan in succeeding issues, so that each will contain specimens belonging at least to closely related groups. Mr. Garrett has modeled his collection upon the pattern so well set by Professor Kellerman in his 'Ohio Fungi.' The specimens are carefully selected, and neatly put up. Each species is accompanied by a reprint of the original description. This distribution should have a large sale, especially among eastern botanists.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF VEGETATION.

Two years ago the first fascicle of an important work was issued by Gustav Fischer, of Jena, under the simple title of 'Vegetationsbilder.' Since then nine fascicles have appeared, and it is now possible to judge quite accurately in regard to its usefulness. The work is edited by Professor Doctor G. Karsten, of the University of Bonn, and Professor Doctor Schenck, of the Technical High School of Darmstadt. Each fascicle includes six large reproductions (16 by 21 cm.) of photographs of vegetation, each accompanied by a page or two of explanatory text. The first fascicle is devoted to the vegetation of southern Brazil and is the work of Dr. Schenck. The second fascicle, by Dr. Karsten, illustrates the vegetation of the Malayan Archipelago; the third is again by Dr. Schenck,

who takes up some economic plants of the tropics, as *Thea sinensis*, *Theobroma cacao*, *Coffea arabica*, etc. Fascicle 4, devoted to tropical and subtropical Mexican vegetation, is edited by Dr. Karsten, while the next, relating to southwest Africa, is from the hand of Dr. Schenck. In the latter the most remarkable is Plate 25, showing a desert, with several plants of *Welwitschia mirabilis* in the foreground. The sixth fascicle, by Dr. Karsten, contains photographs of six species of monocotyledonous trees, including one plate of a giant bamboo clump (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*) forty meters high, on the island of Ceylon. Six views of Brazilian strand vegetation, by Dr. Schenck, make up the seventh fascicle, and another half dozen devoted to Mexican cactuses and agaves (by Dr. Karsten and Dr. Stahl) make up the eighth fascicle which closes Series I. of the publication. The second series opens with a fascicle by E. Ule, on Amazonian epiphytes, in which the illustrations and text maintain the high degree of excellence of the first series.

It is to be hoped that this most useful publication will be continued until the vegetation of the more important parts of the world have been depicted and described. It certainly fills a place in the botanist's library that has not hitherto been occupied.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

WE regret to learn that Lord Kelvin is ill after a surgical operation.

A STATUE of Professor Conrad Röntgen has been placed on one of the bridges in Berlin.

PROFESSOR WILHELM OSTWALD, the eminent physical chemist of Leipzig, will again this year take part in the work of the summer school of the University of California.

DR. FRANK SCHLESINGER has been elected director of the New Allegheny Observatory, and assumed the duties of the office on April 1. The observatory has an endowment fund, and a regular income from the time service, besides owning a large and valuable property in the City of Allegheny, which will be-