

from which we have quoted, and by the resolutions adopted with practically no dissenting vote, is one with which our college presidents, and all persons interested in college education, will do well to reckon promptly and seriously. . . .

Like all human institutions, the American college is full of imperfections; like them all, it has to undergo change with the passage of time. But it should not bow humbly to every passing wind of popular doctrine. It has a history of which it has ample reason to be proud; it has deserved well of the country, and the work that it has been doing there is still need for it to do. Agricultural schools, industrial schools, technological schools, have grown up alongside of it, and other kinds of schools may be equally necessary, and may meet the needs of a far greater number of individuals. There is no compulsion on any one to go to college, nor is it desirable that every one should have a college education. But out of the thousands who have had this opportunity, a very large proportion have derived from it something that they could not otherwise have got, something that they have prized as an invaluable possession to themselves, and something that has supplied to the country an element without which American life would have been immeasurably poorer. Nor do the confident but reckless assertions of educational muckrakers furnish any reason for believing that the day of its usefulness is past, or for abandoning that spirit of loyalty to the traditions of culture which, until very recently, has been the general possession of our college men.—New York *Evening Post*.

THE ORGANIZATION OF ILL-HEALTH

THERE are a number of commercial interests in this country that do not want an independent national Department of Health. In recent years we have had many exposures of the patent medicine swindle. We have learned that most of the most popular patent medicines, the so-called tonics, were nothing more than dilute alcohol with certain bitter drugs so as to make them taste medicinal. Physicians have seen alcohol habits formed as a

consequence of freely imbibing these alcoholic preparations. Some of them were meant particularly for women's diseases, and the consequence has been a feminine nipping at alcoholic products that has worked serious harm to the women of the country. We have also found that the headache powders so commonly advertised were composed of drugs which, when taken as freely as was advised on the labels of many of these preparations, were seriously dangerous. We have had not a few, but many, deaths as a consequence of them. The soothing syrups for children mostly contained opium and were seriously injuring the growing child at an important period of its development, and adding to the number of nervous wrecks with tendencies to drug addictions in after life that we had in this country.

For a time after these exposures the patent medicine swindlers were very quiet. In many cases their advertisements disappeared from their usual places. Now they are gaining courage again. The American people have proverbially a very short memory for such exposures. The patent medicine people dread very much the organization of a national Department of Health, because this will sadly interfere with their now happy prospect of reviving their business and fattening their purses at the cost of the health of our people. This is one element in the opposition organized for ill-health.

There are others. There are a number of people in this country who would like to be freer to foist drugs, impure foods and questionable products of many kinds on our inhabitants, so as to make money, cost what it might in the health of those who consumed them. The consumer's purse they are interested in, but not his health. The organization of the national Bureau of Health, with its strict enforcement of the Pure Food and Drugs Act, and its sure tendency to further protect by legislation the health of our people, is a dread specter to such exploiters of the public, and, of course, they want to lay it off as possible.

The League for Medical Freedom has a rallying cry. It is that the doctors are trying

to create a medical monopoly—a doctor's trust. They insist that the Owen bill is due to the American Medical Association. As a matter of fact the bill emanates from the senator from Oklahoma himself, and the movement for a national Department of Health has been organized, not by the American Medical Association, but by the Committee of One Hundred of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This organization, as is well known, consists not of physicians, but of the united scientists of the country, and only a very small proportion of physicians are in the membership. The Committee of One Hundred contains the names of many of the representative thinking citizens of this country. They come from all over the country. It is absolutely absurd to talk about such men as organizing a medical trust. Practitioners of all the different cults in medicine are agreed that a national Department of Health would be a good thing, and can not possibly interfere with present state laws as to medical practise. This organization of opposition should of itself be a strong argument for the Owen bill. We have the Organization of Ill-Health for commercial reasons. Let us recognize and appreciate at their true value exactly the elements that are engaged in it.—*The Independent*.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

L'Année Psychologique. Troisième Année, 1907; Quatorzième Année, 1908. Publiée par ALFRED BINET. Paris, Masson et Cie.

These two volumes of M. Binet's *Année*, containing about 500 pages each, are as usual full of contributions of interest and value. Brief notice only can be given here of their rich contents.

The principal papers in the volume for 1907 are as follows:

1. H. Poincaré: The Relativity of Space (17 pp.).—We have no knowledge of an absolute space. Should space and all its contents be increased a millionfold in each dimension or undergo any other deformation according to any laws of any degree of complication whatever, we should know nothing of it pro-

vided the deformation applied consistently to everything, including the light rays and our own selves. The three-dimensional space of our perception is derived from the manner in which we perceive and systematize the movements of defence and adaptation that we make. Yet our three-dimensional manner of arranging these has been an efficient adaptation to the world and its properties; and so, though we can conceive of the existence of beings who, differently constituted, would systematize their space in a four-dimensional or other manner, we can not be certain that they could continue to live in our world and protect themselves against its manifold dangers.

2. Foucault: The Progress of Psychophysics (33 pp.).—A critical review of recent work, especially that of Müller, Lipps, Titchener and Aliotta.

3. P. Souriau: The Perception of Mental Facts (16 pp.).—In observing the facial and other expressions of another person, in hearing his words, our awareness is not of these as physical facts, but is of his feelings and ideas. We just as truly perceive these latter as we perceive physical phenomena, and in the same manner. The same thing is true within ourselves. One mental content is perceived always by another, as external to itself, in the same manner as in perceiving external facts. There is no difference in nature, or even in point of view, between introspection and external perception.

4. F. Plateau: Insects and the Color of Flowers (13 pp.).—Careful experiments prove that odor, not color, is the characteristic that attracts insects to flowers.

5. G. Zeligy: The So-called Psychical Secretion of Saliva (12 pp.).—Experiments conducted by M. Pawlow and his pupils add confirmation to the view that "all physiological phenomena may be completely studied as if psychical phenomena had no existence." Direct excitation of the mouth cavity of a dog produces an "unconditional" reflex secretion of the saliva. In case the exciting substance is something the dog eats, the secretion is thick; if it be one that the dog re-