a public official who would dare to interfere with princely schemes of public robbery, would generally lose his head. Now he at most loses his position. Our merchant princes are not so severe as their predecessors were.

The barber of the present day is not expected to do surgical work, although his sign still gives notice that accidents may happen. The bloody pole with its white bandage reminds us of the days when the barber was the surgeon. The family of Poisson decided for him in his youthful days that the work of a notary required greater intelligence than he possessed, and advised him to become a surgeon. It was not until 1745 that the "barberous" work of the surgeon and the surgical work of the barber were, in England, eliminated by law.

Not only should one study the history of the arts and sciences, but even more inspiring are the biographies of the great men of history. Most of the men who have given direction to scientific thought and work have been men who came from the most humble positions in life. Occasionally we find one coming from so-called higher levels, who was not satisfied to be simply a descendant. To read an account of the work of such men, in connection with the human element which enters into a biography, often opens up a new world to a young man. He may thus learn that he possesses elements which respond to such history. It is not saying too much to say that the great mass of students in college never come into contact with the great things of the learned world. They do not do enough of skirmishing in the fields of learning. They waste their time in trivial matters which will have little value to them in the future. They perhaps never acquire the faintest knowledge of branches of learning, which, if they knew of them, would change the whole current of their lives.

And in order that one may do new work it is not necessary to hunt for new fields. Remember that the Crookes tube was in physical laboratories in all parts of the world for seventeen years, before any one suspected that it was an X-ray tube. Röntgen was hunting for accidents of the kind, and he accidentally discovered that there were phenomena outside of the tube that demanded attention. It is only needful that one shall read and think, and the work of others, which may have been published half a century ago, will suggest something to you which it never suggested to any one before, and which may occupy your attention for years.

FRANCIS E. NIPHER

BRITISH VITAL STATISTICS

THE British Registrar-General has issued his return relating to the births and deaths in the first quarter of the year, and to the marriages during the three months ending December last. From the abstract in *The British Medical Journal* it appears that the marriage-rate during that period was equal to 16.1 per 1,000, or 0.7 per 1,000 less than the average rate for the corresponding quarter in the ten preceding years.

The 223,588 births registered in England and Wales during the quarter under notice were equal to an annual rate of 24.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population; the birth-rate last quarter was 2.7 per 1,000 below the average rate for the corresponding period of the ten preceding years, and is the lowest birth-rate recorded in the first quarter of any year since the establishment of civil registration. Among the several counties the birth-rates ranged from 17.8 in Carnarvonshire, 18.5 in Sussex, 19.6 in Northamptonshire, 20.1 in Kent, and 20.6 in Dorsetshire and in Gloucestershire, to 29.1 in Nottinghamshire, 31.3 in Carmarthenshire, 31.4 in Durham, 34.5 in Glamorganshire and 35.9 in Mon-

mouthshire. In seventy-seven of the largest towns, including London, the birth-rate averaged 24.9 per 1,000; in London the rate was 23.9, while among the other towns it ranged from 14.5 in Hastings, 15.1 in Hornsey, 16.0 in Bournemouth, 16.7 in Halifax, and 18.3 in Handsworth (Staffs), to 31.5 in Merthyr Tydfil, 33.6 in St. Helens, 35.3 in Coventry, 35.9 in Swansea, and 41.8 in Rhondda.

The excess of births over deaths during the quarter was 80,447, against 83,784, 68,281, and 85,256 in the corresponding quarters of the three preceding years. From a return issued by the Board of Trade it appears that the passenger movement between the United Kingdom and places outside Europe resulted in a net balance outward of 70,973 persons. There was an outward balance of 46,076 English passengers, 1,185 Welsh, 11,473 Scottish, 4,002 Irish, and of 8,812 foreigners, while there was an inward balance of 575 British Colonial passengers.

During the three months under notice the deaths of 143,141 persons were registered, equal to an annual rate of 15.9 per 1,000, or 1.7 per 1,000 less than the average rate for the corresponding quarter in the ten preceding years. The lowest county death-rates last quarter were 13.3 in Middlesex and in Essex, 13.5 in Kent, 13.6 in Leicestershire, 13.7 in Northamptonshire, and 13.9 in Worcestershire; the highest rates were 18.2 in Herefordshire, 18.5 in Devonshire, 19.0 in Monmouthshire, 19.6 in the North Riding of Yorkshire, and 20.2 in Carmarthenshire. In seventy-seven of the largest towns the corrected death-rate averaged 16.8 per 1,000; in 136 smaller towns the rate was 15.4 per 1,000, which was also the rate in the remainder of the country. The crude death-rates in the seventy-seven towns ranged from 7.6 in King's Norton, 8.5 in Hornsey and in Handsworth (Staffs), and 10.4 in East Ham, to 19.2 in Oldham, 19.3 in Dewsbury and in Swansea, 19.4 in Liverpool, 20.0 in Sheffield, 20.7 in Coventry, and 23.1 in Middlesbrough; in London the death-rate was 15.8 per 1,000.

The 143,141 deaths from all causes last quarter included 12,535 which were referred to the principal infectious diseases; of these, 6,147 were attributed to measles, 2,631 to whooping-cough, 1,439 to diarrhœa and arteritis (among children under two years of age), 1,369 to diphtheria, 515 to scarlet fever, 421 to enteric fever, 9 to small-pox, 2 to typhus, and 2 to pyrexia of uncertain origin.

The rate of infant mortality, measured by the proportion of deaths among children under one year of age to registered births, was equal to 115 per 1,000 or 15 per 1,000 less than the average rate in the ten preceding first quarters. Among the several counties the rates of infant mortality last quarter ranged from 88 in Sussex, 91 in Surrey, 93 in Dorsetshire, 94 in Hampshire and in Buckinghamshire, and 95 in Hertfordshire, to 130 in Cornwall, 138 in Cumberland, 144 in the North Riding of Yorkshire, 145 in Monmouthshire, and 164 in Carmarthenshire. In seventy-seven of the largest towns the rate averaged 115 per 1,000 (being equal to the rate in the country as a whole), and ranged from 57 in Hornsey, 65 in Wallasey, 79 in King's Norton and 80 in Hastings and in Great Yarmouth, to 149 in Sheffield and in Rotherham, 151 in Grimsby, 158 in Blackburn, 165 in Dewsbury and 186 in Middlesbrough.

The death-rate among persons aged 1 to 65 years was 8.7 per 1,000 of the population estimated to be living at those ages. In the seventy-seven large towns the death-rate in this age-group averaged 9.4 per 1,000, and ranged from 3.5 in King's Norton, 4.1 in Hornsey, 4.2 in Handsworth (Staffs), 5.8 in Ipswich, 6.2 in Leicester, and 6.3 in Bournemouth, to 12.2 in Oldham, 12.3 in Coventry and in Liverpool, 13.4 in Sheffield and 15.1 in Middlesbrough.

Among persons aged 65 years and upwards the rate of mortality last quarter was 104.6 per 1,000; in the seventy-seven towns the death-rate in this age-group averaged 111.9 per 1,000, the lowest rates being 69.0 in King's Norton, 76.5 in Handsworth (Staffs), 85.8 in West Bromwich and 87.0 in Norwich and in Devonport; and the highest rates, 140.0 in Swansea, 143.0 in Huddersfield, 144.2 in

Dewsbury, 155.4 in Burnley and 158.5 in Bootle.

The mean temperature of the air last quarter was above the average in most districts; the total amount of rainfall was less than the average; and, owing to the general dullness in March, there was a deficiency in the total duration of bright sunshine during the quarter.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE forty-seventh general assembly of the state of Illinois, which closed its regular session on June 1, by a record breaking act, has distinguished itself in the cause of state education. Former legislatures of the state had made what was considered at the time generous appropriations for the state university. The present General Assembly, however, recognized the ever-increasing needs of the state university and its great public service by appropriating for its support for the coming biennium the sum of $3,519,300. This is the largest appropriation ever made by a state legislature to a state educational institution and a million and a quarter larger than the largest appropriation ever before made to the University of Illinois.

But this is not all. The present general assembly not only recognized the immediate needs of the university and provided for them, but it had the courage to look ahead and make wise provision for the future by levying a one mill tax for its continued support. It is estimated that this tax will yield an income to the university, two years hence, of about two and one quarter million dollars a year. Thus the legislature has crowned its important work for state education by providing what is in effect a permanent annual grant equal to the income at 5 per cent. of an endowment fund of $45,000,000.

By these acts the general assembly eloquently expresses its confidence in the management of university affairs and its general approval of the able leadership and restless energy of the university's president, Dr. Edmund J. James.

The extent and nature of the work of the university for which the legislature has made appropriations will be seen from the following items:

		For the Biennium 1911–1913
For salaries and operating expenses		$1,150,000
Books for the library		50,000
Maintenance of the College of Engineering and Engineering Experiment Station (not including building)		180,000
For the College of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station (not including buildings)		799,300
For Social and Political Science		50,000
Support of Law School		50,000
Support of Graduate School		100,000
Support of College of Medicine		120,000
Maintenance and equipment of Mining Engineering		55,000
Support of ceramics		30,000
For new buildings		724,000
Armory	$100,000	
Engineering building and ground	200,000	
Building for School of Commerce	125,000	
Addition to Woman's building	125,000	
For Kiln House for Ceramics	21,000	
For agricultural buildings	153,000	
For purchase of land, Agricultural Experiment Station		20,000
Other items not included above		191,000
Total		$3,519,300

In addition to the above the university will receive from the federal government and other sources funds that will bring its income to about $2,000,000 per annum for the next biennium beginning July 1, 1910.

Of the above appropriations there is one item that should be noticed particularly as it is the first appropriation ever made by the state of Illinois for the purpose specified. It is the item of $60,000 per year for the support of the College of Medicine of the university. By this act the state of Illinois takes its place among modern states in recognizing its high duty to take measures for the protection of the health of its citizens.