attributable, in general terms, to the increasing application of scientific method to health problems. It may now be added that many of the very most striking examples of successful application of scientific method are to be found precisely in this domain. Here, therefore, is to be found one of the richest fields in which to exemplify and illustrate scientific method. To a student entirely innocent of science such a course would, in this way, be of superlative value as an introduction to scientific method, and this apart altogether from any utilitarian value inherent in the facts presented. Laboratory work, although we often make a fetish of it, is by no means a *sine qua non* in the teaching of scientific method; and the teaching of a substantial though non-technical course in hygiene would, from the very variety of the contributing sciences, offer exceptional opportunities for utilizing the whole battery of modern methods of class-room demonstration.

Some one has truly said that, as a nation, we are prodigal of nothing in so great a degree as of our health. It is the chief of the wastes of our national resources, our largest preventable waste. To be effective, a knowledge of preventive medicine must be in the hands of the many, whereas a knowledge of merely remedial medicine may be effective in the hands of the few. To conserve our health resources, therefore, the logical policy is plainly to teach prevention to many and cure to a few. To the medical student, who is a specialist, teach cure; but to the general student teach prevention. If prevention can not be taught more widely still in the community, its teaching in colleges makes it at least possible that, in this matter, the college graduates may become the little leaven that shall leaven the whole lump.

If it be true that the last few decades have witnessed abnormally swift progress in the science of preventive medicine, and if it also be true that the development of a social conscience has been unusually rapid in recent years, then it may well be the case that the time for requiring the teaching of general hygiene in our colleges is now at hand.

Alan W. C. Menzies
The University of Chicago

ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND

The thirty-seventh meeting of the board of trustees was held on February 9 last at Cambridge, Mass. The records of the last meeting were read and approved. The following officers were elected:

President—Edward C. Pickering.
Treasurer—Charles S. Rackemann.
Secretary—Charles S. Minot.

The secretary reported that a pamphlet, giving the record of the Fund for the twenty-five years of its existence, had been prepared and printed in accordance with the vote of last year. This carries the record of the fund to April, 1911. In compiling the matter for this record valuable assistance had been received from Dr. F. T. Lewis. Copies of the report have been sent to each of the trustees, to all living recipients of previous grants, and to a small number of libraries and institutions. Any one desiring a copy of the report should address the secretary.

The secretary reported that additional publications had been received connected with grants, the record of which had been closed, as follows:

139. Joh. Königsberger.
153. W. Doberck.
159. B. M. Davis.

It was voted to close the record of grants 117, E. Salkowski, and 146, M. Nussbaum. No reports had been received from the holders of grants Nos. 22 and 27, 109, 112, 124 and 147. The trustees much regret that the recipients of these grants have failed to ful-

fill the obligations they have assumed. Reports were received from twenty-seven holders of grants and accepted as reports of progress. It was voted to make the following new grants:

No. 170, $100 to Professor Arthur L. Foley, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, for photographic researches on the spectra of various gases, the money to be applied to the purchase of quartz tubes. (Application 1,243.)

No. 171, $250 to Professor Paul Schiefferdecker, Bonn, Germany, for the investigation of the microscopic structure of muscles. (Application 1,252.)

No. 172, $75 to K. Stolyhwo, rue Kaliksta, Varsovie, Poland, for the archeological exploration of the Cave of Lary, Poland. (Application 1,264.)

No. 173, $180 to Professor H. Konen, Fürstenbergerstrasse 4, Münster, W., Germany, for the study of the lower end of the spectrum, the money to be used for the purchase of quartz rock salt objectives. (Application 1,245.)

No. 174, $100 to Dr. Paul D. Lamson, Bahnhofstrasse 20, Würzburg, Germany, for researches on the pharmacotherapy of snake-bites. (Application 1,258.)

No. 175, $40 to W. Doberck, Esq., Kowloon, Elgin Road, Sutton, Surrey, England, for observations on comets, the money to be used for the purchase of a comet eyepiece. (For application, see Grants made, Report 383.)

No. 176, $250 to Professor Th. Boveri, Zoologisches Institut, Würzburg, Germany, for experiments on the rôle of the separate elements of cells in heredity. (Application 1,249.)

CHARLES S. MINOT,
Secretary

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL,
BOSTON

JOHN BERNHARDT SMITH

THE many personal friends of Doctor John Bernhardt Smith, state entomologist of New Jersey, had known for many months that he was in a most serious condition of health, but were none the less shocked and grieved to learn of his death on March 12 last.

Few men have contributed more to the advancement of the study of entomology in the United States, through both the systematic and economic sides, than has the late New Jersey entomologist. He was born in New York City on November 21, 1858, and was educated in the schools of New York City and Brooklyn. He was admitted to the bar in 1880 and practised law in Brooklyn between 1880 and 1884. As a young man, he was greatly interested in the study of insects and joined the Brooklyn Entomological Society, devoting himself at first to the study of Coleoptera and afterwards turning his attention to Lepidoptera. He became the editor of the *Bulletin* of the Brooklyn Entomological Society which afterwards developed into the journal known as *Entomologica Americana,* the most prominent periodical of its kind in those days for the publication of short papers and notes.

Up to 1884, Doctor Smith was known only as a systematic entomologist, but in that year he was brought by the late C. V. Riley to Washington and became field agent of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and spent two years in investigating insects affecting the hop and the cranberry. In 1886, he was transferred to the U. S. National Museum, where he remained as assistant curator of insects until 1890.

During this period, he was active in his systematic work publishing a number of excellent papers, and became prominent in the scientific life of Washington, joining the Cosmos Club and being made secretary of the Biological Society of Washington.

With the founding of the state agricultural stations under the Hatch Act, he was appointed entomologist of the State Agricultural Experiment Station of New Jersey and there really began his important economic work, which lasted until his fatal illness came. All the difficulties of insect emergency which the agricultural and horticultural interests of New Jersey had to face during that period were met by Doctor Smith with a rare comprehension and an equally rare ability to handle them. He was foremost in the work against the San Jose scale in the early days and took an equal rank in the warfare against all the other threatening foes to agriculture and, in the last few years, conducted an admirably