

of the application to our local conditions of the methods used in other places.

The smoke problem is not an easy one to handle. There are many obstacles to overcome and many prejudices to set right. Without power to act, knowledge in itself would be of little avail. Therefore the legal aspect of the situation will form no small part of our investigation.

In brief, then, we have in this research the twofold object of scientifically ascertaining the true economic status of the smoke problem in all its phases and the devising of ways and means of making the smokeless combustion of soft coal the rule rather than the exception.

R. C. BENNER

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

#### CANCER RESEARCH

DURING the past winter important developments in the field of cancer research have occurred in New York City which have hitherto escaped public notice. By the addition of \$100,000 to the endowment fund of the General Memorial Hospital to be used for the maintenance of 20 free beds for cancer patients, a well-known scientific man has provided the staff of the Collis P. Huntington Fund for Cancer Research with greatly increased facility for the study and treatment of cancer in the human being.

The General Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases was originally chartered for the study and treatment of cancer but at the time of its foundation, cancer had little interest to any one but the surgeon. To-day the wide field of research opened up by the experimental study of cancer is too costly to be undertaken by any hospital without an unusually liberal endowment; and it may be said that no hospital in New York possesses to-day an adequate endowment for this purpose.

The General Memorial Hospital has enjoyed the support of the Huntington Fund for Cancer Research founded by Mrs. C. P. Huntington, since 1902. The trustees of this fund, of which the late Dr. W. T. Bull was chairman, placed the fund at the disposal of

Cornell University Medical College in whose laboratories systematic research has been conducted as far as the income of the fund and the resources of the university would permit. Under this arrangement three volumes of studies have been published relating chiefly to experimental observations on lower animals, but the work has been limited in scope by the lack of hospital facilities, and a close cooperation between the laboratories and the hospital wards.

The recent donor, himself a scientist of international reputation, a supporter of cancer research, both here and abroad, and fully acquainted with the proper organization of such work, determined to supply the needs of the Huntington-Cornell staff, and by his liberality has opened a portion of the General Memorial Hospital to cancer research under very favorable auspices. In addition to the endowment of 20 beds, chemical and pathological laboratories are now being constructed in the hospital and a complete X-ray and Radium department is being provided for the early diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

This latest addition to the resources of cancer research is significant in several respects. It is a noteworthy instance of the discriminating support of science by a scientific man who knows exactly what his gift may accomplish. It supplies for the first time in New York City the opportunity for men trained by a university in many branches of medical science to study this disease at the bedside. It enables the pioneer institution founded in the city for the care of malignant disease at last to enter in earnest into the field for which it was established. Incidentally it points out a way for a most effective use of much larger endowments than are even now available. Although a considerable capital is represented in the various branches of this institution, clinical cancer research has been found to be extremely costly, and even the present endowment fails to provide all the important necessities in the work.

Not the least gratifying result is that New York City is now provided with an institution similar to those recently established in

London, Berlin, Heidelberg and Paris, abroad, as well as in Buffalo, St. Louis and Boston, here, and that this institution has the advantage of having an organization of men thoroughly trained in cancer research work, which it has taken ten years to develop and bring together.

The problem of cancer is the most serious of all the problems that confront the medical profession to-day. The steady increase of the disease baffling all efforts to discover the cause or a means of controlling it has attracted the leading minds in medicine to the field of cancer research. The only hope of a solution of this great problem is by bringing to bear upon the problem, the combined efforts of every department of medical science and by having the closest affiliation between the cancer wards and the scientific laboratories of a great university. W. B. C.

#### THE NATIONAL ARGENTINE OBSERVATORY

UPON the recommendation of the Minister of Public Instruction the Argentine Congress has provided in its budget for 1912 a 5 foot reflecting telescope for the National Observatory at Córdoba.

It is expected to locate this telescope in the mountains to the west of and close to Córdoba where preliminary investigations have already been made and the meteorological conditions found to be good.

The program of work for this telescope comprises photographs and other investigations of the nebulae and clusters of the southern sky, in continuation of similar work in the northern sky; photographic observations of comets, faint satellites, etc.; stellar parallax; observations of special regions of the sky; spectrographic observations with high and low dispersion and in the line of sight.

C. D. PERRINE

OBSERVATORIO NACIONAL ARGENTINO,  
CÓRDOBA, May 11, 1912

#### AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ANTHROPOLOGY

At an International Conference called by the Royal Anthropological Institute and held

June 4 in the rooms of the institute, London, immediately following the sessions of the International Congress of Americanists, it was voted to organize an international congress of the anthropological sciences, which shall either include several existing congresses or work in affiliation with them. The congresses which it is hoped may become a part of the projected congress are Congrès International d'Anthropologie et d'Archéologie Préhistoriques, International Congress of Anthropology, Congrès Internationaux d'Ethnographie, International Folk-Lore Congresses and International Congress of Americanists. The organizing committee appointed by Dr. A. P. Maudslay, president of the conference, consists of the following: Maudslay (*ex officio*), chairman, R. R. Marrett (Oxford), secretary, Hrdlička, Boas, Krämer, Capitan, Heger, Duckworth, Waxweiler, Lafone Quevedo, van Panhuys. This committee met at the close of the conference and decided that a congress should not be held before 1915 (if then). In the meantime a general committee is being constituted by gradually adding names to the organizing committee; and sub-committees are being formed to establish harmonious relations with the various existing international congresses.

GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY

#### HONORARY DEGREES IN SCIENCE

THE degrees conferred by Harvard University at its recent commencement on men of science and words used by President Lowell are as follows:

Master of arts: Charles Francis Stokes, surgeon for sailors in peace and war, on sea and land, on battleships in the west and the east and around the world; professor of surgery, director of hospitals, Surgeon-General of the Navy. Doctor of science: Frederick Forchheimer, who in his practise, by his teaching, and with his pen, has contributed to the marvellous advance of medicine in our day; a man in the judgment of his peers worthy to preside over the Association of American Physicians; Carlos de la Torre y Huerta, statesman and naturalist; first in his knowledge of the molluscs of the Gulf; discoverer of fossils who has revolutionized the geologic history of Cuba; Frederick Cheever Shattuck, a teacher of medicine, pungent