Bureau by a Callendar sunshine receiver and recorder. The temperature of Lake Mendota, on whose shore is situated the station of the Weather Bureau, is ascertained by daily series of observations, taken in the deepest part of the lake. In this way are determined not only the amount and rate of the gain and loss of heat by the lake, but also the relation between the heat absorbed by the lake and that furnished to its surface by the sun.

E. A. Birge

Madison, N. J.,
October 3.

## *QUOTATIONS*

### SPECIAL TRAINING FOR HEALTH OFFICERS

A long step forward in the special training of health officers has just been taken in the organization of the "school for health officers" of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

By cooperation, especially arranged between the two institutions, it now becomes possible for properly qualified persons on payment of an annual fee of $250 to obtain access to the remarkable resources of the Harvard Medical School and other departments of our oldest university, as well as to the chemical, biological, sanitary and engineering opportunities offered by a great modern technical school. How remarkable these opportunities offered are can only be appreciated by an examination of the announcement itself, copies of which may be obtained on application to the director, Professor M. J. Rosenau, of the Harvard Medical School.

No single curriculum is laid down which all must follow, but from the many courses offered members of the school will be expected to choose such as their preparation warrants or their needs indicate. No degree of any kind is required for admission, and no degree will be awarded for the completion of the course but, instead, a certificate to be known as the certificate of public health (C.P.H.) will be given to all who complete satisfactory courses and requirements. In order to obtain the certificate in one year it will in general be required that the candidate shall be either a graduate in medicine, or in biology and public health, or be otherwise highly qualified. Failing these special qualifications, two or more years will ordinarily be necessary in order to obtain the certificate.

No one will be admitted to the school who has not completed at least two years of ordinary college work including chemistry, physics, biology and French and German, or who is not otherwise specially qualified.

Persons already engaged in public health work will be admitted under certain conditions to special courses, and every facility will be offered for obtaining equipment in public health administration and other aspects of the health officers' profession.

It is hardly necessary to say that the organization of this high-grade school marks a distinct epoch in the American public health service. It still remains, however, for the public, which is interested in the success of schools of this sort, to make sure that a reasonable tenure of office and proper salaries shall await those who are ready to devote their lives to the new profession, and much popular education along this line needs to be done.

The actual conduct of the affairs of the school has been placed by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the hands of an administrative board, composed of Professor W. T. Sedgwick, Sc.D., of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, chairman; Professor M. J. Rosenau, M.D., of the Harvard Medical School, director, and Professor George C. Whipple, S.B., member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, secretary.—*Journal of the American Public Health Association.*

### PENSIONS AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

An announcement of the new pension rules for members of the faculty of Brown University was made yesterday at the annual meeting of the corporation. That is about the only one of the great institutions in this part of the country that is not eligible to the benefits of the Carnegie Foundation, and while that might seem to place it at a disadvantage in general competition, its alumni and friends

have shown their willingness to overcome the handicap. The spirit of this university is as liberal as in any other, but some ancient special requirements have been interpreted as placing it outside the prescribed list of beneficiaries. An attempt has been made to revise the charter so as to put it into conformity with the conditions of the foundations, and while that might have been a properly expedient step to take, there may be a feeling of larger satisfaction in attaining the same results through its own efforts. After twenty-five years of service in some cases and fifteen in others, any one connected with the active work of the university is entitled, after the age of sixty-five, to a pension of four hundred dollars, plus fifty dollars for each hundred dollars of active pay. Retirement at seventy is mandatory. This overcomes what otherwise might prove a disadvantage and puts the institution on both a strong and an independent basis.—Boston *Evening Transcript.*

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Allen's Commercial Organic Analysis.* Fourth edition, Volume VII. Philadelphia, P. Blackiston's Son and Co. 1913. $5.00 net.

Volume VII. of this comprehensive and useful work deals with vegetable alkaloids, glucosides and other "bitter" principles, animal bases, putrefaction bases, animal acids, lactic acid and cyanogen and its derivatives. Like nearly all such extensive compilations representing the joint work of many authors there are to be noted considerable variations in the excellence and value of the different chapters. Hundreds of different compounds of animal and vegetable origin are described. Their formulæ when known are given together with their medicinal value and chemical properties including characteristic tests used for their detection and estimation.

It would be easy to pick flaws in a book of that kind, since much of the material represents compilations of variable value from other books. The individual contributors have evidently been hampered more or less by the decision of the general editors to preserve the classifications of the older editions. Thus the purines are discussed in Taylor's excellent chapter on the animal bases, but uric acid, the most important of the purines, is not included. It is discussed in the chapter on animal acids. Urinary calculi and bile pigments, but not lactic acid, are included in the latter chapter.

To the commercial chemist who has to analyze many different substances and to continually turn from subject to subject, in many instances to subjects with which he has had no experience, this volume of Allen's "Commercial Organic Analysis" will prove a valuable source of information.

OTTO FOLIN
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

*House Sanitation.* By MARION TALBOT. Boston, Whitcomb & Barrows. 1913.

In view of the rapidly growing conviction that home-making is a science as well as an art, and the increasing purposefulness with which women are preparing themselves for this function, there is no more important need in public health than for authoritative manuals of home sanitation. It was one of the most substantial achievements of the late Mrs. Richards that she saw the need before it was generally recognized and met it by the preparation of a series of books which will always remain as inspiring models for workers in this field. Public health science has developed with such rapidity, however, that every few years makes necessary a revision of the older viewpoints. The reviewer has of late frequently been puzzled when asked to recommend a good book on home sanitation. The Sanitary Science Club of the Association of Collegiate Alumnæ, under the guidance of Mrs. Richards herself, published a book upon this subject twenty-five years ago. It has naturally become in many respects out of date; and the new work just published by one of Mrs. Richards's most distinguished pupils has been so completely rewritten as to constitute an entirely new contribution, and one which shows that the mantle of the pioneer in scientific home-making has fallen on no unworthy shoulders.

It is, indeed, refreshing, to one familiar with