

that the city, and not the country, is too intolerably dull for a permanent residence. The American college of agriculture does not do this, and the main cause of its failure is that the kind of agricultural problems which are presented, discussed and worked with in its classes, are not the kind which it is practicable for a farmer to work with after he graduates. The graduate is not equipped to find employment for his intellect on the farm.

The theses in all this writing are:

First: the American college course in agriculture is basically wrong. Plant industry as a science must rest on an understanding of plants.

Second: the mistake of not giving this understanding results not merely in the waste of considerable time, and in making poorer farmers than might be produced, but results also in the failure of the college to check, as it should be expected to do, the movement, from the farm to the city, of the country's best blood.

E. B. COPELAND

SANITATION IN VERA CRUZ

THE Vera Cruz correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes that the hot season, which is also the rainy season, begins in Vera Cruz in May or June and lasts until the end of September, and as the season advances the tendency is for the death and morbidity rate for all diseases to increase, due to the heat itself, and the rapid increase in the amount of malaria; yet thanks to the effective work of our sanatoriums, this year is an exception, in that the civil death-rate for July is practically no greater than for June, in which month it was lower than the average. The civil death-rates per thousand of population, per annum, for the months of June and July for the past five years for the city of Vera Cruz are given below; the improvement for July of this year is too great to be accidental or due to anything but improved sanitation.

	June	July
1910	36.86	46.86
1911	38.29	46.86
1912	44.86	49.72
1913	36.86	41.15
1914	32.00	32.58

A comparative statement of the civil deaths from communicable diseases for June and July of this year is as follows:

	June	July
Typhoid fever	1	0
Malaria	8	2
Smallpox	4	1
Dysentery	12	4
Tuberculosis	19	26
Diarrhea and enteritis, under 2 years ...	19	14
Diarrhea and enteritis, 2 years and over.	28	23

The increase of deaths from tuberculosis is not unusual during the hot weather; the smallpox epidemic is over and there are now no cases in the city; between May 18 and July 31, 66,432 persons were vaccinated; revaccinations are now being made when indicated but general vaccination ceased with the end of July. The principal gain is due to the fall in the death-rates for malarial and intestinal diseases and this improvement is directly due to our preventive measures.

The antimalarial measures which affect the civil population are three: the suppression of mosquito breeding, the use of the army laboratory in establishing the correct diagnosis, and the following up and treatment of all proved carriers of gametes in the blood. Mosquito-breeding has been largely suppressed by the extensive and intricate system of ditches in the environs of the city, totaling about 25 miles in length; miles of vacant lots and hundreds of acres of swamp at the bases of the gigantic sand-dunes behind the city have been drained by the Health Department, and it is now possible to sleep comfortably in almost all parts of the city without the use of mosquito-bars, something heretofore unknown at the height of the rainy season.

Malaria has been made a reportable disease by the Health Department and demonstration of the parasite in the blood is insisted on as far as possible. All houses where proved cases of malaria have occurred have been visited by inspectors trained in mosquito extermination, and secondary cases have been so far practically unknown. As a result of a partial malarial survey of the city, it has been found that the disease is principally localized along the railroad and the railroad yards. Further investigations along this line are now under

way. The work has advanced far enough to demonstrate that there is very much less malaria now than is usual at this time of the year; the Mexican physicians are unanimous in stating that the amount of *paludismo* is now very small.

The other group of diseases which have been brought under control are the dysenteries and diarrhoeas, and the preventive measures which seem to be directly responsible for the improvement are the following: the suppression of flies and the protection of foodstuffs in the markets by screening; the improvement in the milk-supply, and disinfection and isolation of dysenteric cases. The number of milk-venders in the city is approximately 150, and 200 samples of milk have been examined for dirt, adulteration and the percentage of fat. The milk examinations are made at irregular intervals on unannounced dates, each vender's milk being examined at least quarterly. The measure, however, which seems most directly responsible for the diminution in the number of cases and deaths from intestinal diseases is the antify campaign. The city water has been frequently examined in the laboratory and found uniformly good. No cases of yellow fever have originated in Vera Cruz or been brought to the port.

FOREIGN STUDENTS AND THE UNITED STATES

DR. P. P. CLAXTON, United States commissioner of education, has authorized the preparation and publication of a special bulletin describing, for the use of foreign students, the facilities for professional and collegiate study in higher institutions of learning in this country. The bulletin will be printed in several languages. "This is America's opportunity," writes Commissioner Claxton. "Thousands of students who have been attending universities in Europe will be obliged to look elsewhere for higher education, not only this year, but perhaps for years to come. Many foreign students are already coming to us, many more will come as the result, direct and indirect, of present events. We have now a supreme opportunity to demonstrate our capac-

ity for intellectual leadership. Whether the war continues three months or three years, our opportunities and obligations to take the lead in education and civilization will be the same, and America should respond by offering the best opportunity in the world for her own students and for those who may come from other countries. In the case of South America this student migration will be facilitated by the opportune opening of the Panama Canal. Students from the western coast of South America will find it alluringly convenient to go via Canal to educational centers in the United States. Within the last two decades the increase in opportunity for graduate study and research, and for professional and technical education has been very remarkable, much greater than most people even in America realize. The recent raising of standards and the better equipment of medical schools, the large endowments and appropriations for all forms of engineering, the marvelous growth of our colleges of agriculture, the development of colleges and schools of education, and the rapid increase in income of all the better colleges make it possible for this country to take the lead in education in a way that would have been impossible even at the beginning of the century."

BOTANISTS OF THE CENTRAL STATES

IN accordance with a vote taken at the Cleveland meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, it is determined to reorganize the Botanists of the Central States. A very large majority of the members of the organization, either by letter or by personal statement at the Cleveland meeting, have expressed their desire for a resumption of the meetings of the organization, especially in years in which the Botanical Society of America meets outside of the states which comprise our territory. Since the last meeting of the Botanical Society of America was at Atlanta, and the next meeting is to be at Philadelphia, the present year seems especially favorable for a meeting of the Botanists of the Central States. I am able to announce that we have a very cordial invitation to hold