

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1915

THE PRESENT STATUS AND THE FUTURE
OF HYGIENE OR PUBLIC HEALTH
IN AMERICA¹

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DURING the past few years an increasing and now insistent demand has been heard in this country for better facilities for the training of public health officials. This demand has come from members of the medical profession, chiefly those engaged in official positions as officers or commissioners of health for cities and states, from sanitary engineers, and from various philanthropic societies whose aim is the betterment of social conditions among the poor in our great cities and in our rural communities. With the last this demand is associated with a demand for more enlightened instruction for the general public in matters affecting their health. At this time when these various desires are but an index of the awakening of interest throughout this country in that branch of science known as hygiene or public health, it becomes a matter of vital necessity for those of us who are working in this field to clearly formulate the underlying principles of this science, its scope and its needs, and present them to the public and especially to those who hold the fate of our great institutions of learning in their grasp and under their direction.

HYGIENE IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

Despite the fact that an American-born scientist, Count Rumford, of Munich (Benjamin Thompson of Concord and Boston), was the first to inaugurate and carry out a comprehensive movement for

¹ Read at the May, 1915, meeting of the Association of American Physicians.