

### THE SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY<sup>1</sup>

OUR president, with a self-denial which I might appreciate, has intrusted to me the agreeable function of announcing upon this occasion one of the most important and gratifying gifts ever bestowed upon this university, a benefaction likewise of national interest. This is the provision of funds by the Rockefeller Foundation for the purpose of establishing in connection with the Johns Hopkins University a school of hygiene and public health. This action of the foundation was communicated to the trustees of the university only to-day shortly before these exercises. It is hardly necessary to add that the trustees have acted promptly in accepting this generous gift and have already taken the first steps toward organization of the new school in selecting Dr. Howell as the head of the physiological division of the institute of hygiene and to co-operate in the work of organization and development, and in appointing me as director.

It is expected that the school will be opened in October, 1917, as it is estimated that a year will be required for the planning, construction and equipment of the building and the gathering together of the staff of teachers. The necessary funds for construction, equipment, maintenance and expenses of the school will be provided by the Rockefeller Foundation.

When we consider the revolutionary discoveries of the last forty years in our knowledge of the causes and means of prevention of diseases, the great progress in the science and art of public health and the incalculable benefits to the community in the application of this knowledge, we can all realize the beneficent service rendered to this great cause by this latest gift of the Rockefeller Foundation, which has already contributed so largely to the advancement of medical science and education. Not only this university, but also this city and state and the whole country owe a great debt of gratitude to the foundation for

the provision thus made of improved opportunities for training in preventive medicine and public health work and for cultivation of the sciences which find application in public and personal hygiene.

It is naturally most gratifying to us that Baltimore and the Johns Hopkins University have been selected for the location of the new school of hygiene and public health. Our city, in its situation, its relations to the south and other parts of the country, its proximity to the national capital, and its opportunities for study and work in the field of preventable diseases, is favorably located for such a school. I think that I may say that determining considerations have been the advantages arising from close association of the school with the medical school, the hospital, the school of engineering and other departments of the Johns Hopkins University, and it is for these reasons especially that the decision reached by the foundation after prolonged and careful study of the situation in different parts of the country is so gratifying to us. The wider extension of the influence and usefulness of the university, the possibilities of greater service to this city and state and to the country at large about to be opened by the new school, should materially strengthen the position of the Johns Hopkins University and aid in securing much-needed support in the development of other departments.

While the detailed plans of organization of the school of hygiene and public health will be worked out and announced later, a few points may here be touched upon.

Inasmuch as the profession of the sanitarian and worker in public health, although closely connected, is not identical with that of the practitioner of medicine, the school of hygiene and public health, while working in cooperation with the medical school, as well as with the school of engineering, will have an independent existence under the university co-ordinate with these schools. Opportunities in each will be available to students of the other schools.

The central and principal feature of the school will be an institute of hygiene housed in its own building, provided with the requisite

<sup>1</sup> Remarks by Dr. Wm. H. Welch at the commencement exercises of the Johns Hopkins University, as reported in the University Circular.

laboratories and facilities and with its own staff of teachers giving their entire time to the work of teaching and investigating.

There will be here laboratories of sanitary chemistry, of physiology as applied to hygiene—a most-important although much-neglected subject—of bacteriology and protozoology, and provision for epidemiology, industrial hygiene, vital statistics, a museum, library, etc. Additional facilities for instruction and research will be supplied by the medical and the engineering schools, the hospital, especially the newly opened wards for infectious diseases of the Harriet Lane Home for Invalid Children, and other departments of the university, which will be aided in undertaking the new work.

It is anticipated that mutually helpful relations will be established with our municipal and state departments of health, assurance of which has been given by our public-spirited mayor and other authorities, and with the federal public health service, whereby opportunities will be afforded for field work and other practical experience in various branches of public-health work.

Especially advantageous will be the relations with the International Health Commission of the Rockefeller Foundation, which is engaged in the study and control not only of hookworm, but also of malaria, yellow fever and other tropical diseases, which will receive due attention in the work of the institute.

It is intended that the school shall furnish opportunities of a high order for the cultivation of the various sciences which find application in hygiene, sanitation and preventive medicine, and for the training of medical students, engineers, chemists, biologists and others properly prepared who wish to be grounded in the principles of these subjects, and above all for the training of those who desire to fit themselves for careers in public-health work in its various branches—that most attractive profession for those qualified to practise it. The most urgent need at the present time is provision for the scientific training of prospective health officials and for supplementary and advanced courses for those already engaged in sanitary work. Suitable recognition of the

satisfactory completion of work in the school will be given by the bestowal of certificates and degrees.

Directions in which it may be expected that the usefulness of the school of hygiene and public health will be extended are cooperative efforts with our training school for nurses and other agencies in the training of public-health nurses, who have become such important agents in voluntary and public-health work, and in the education of the public by exhibits, lectures and other means to a better application and understanding of the significance and needs of public and personal hygiene.

The dreams which many of us in the medical faculty have long cherished are now about to be realized. The opportunity which this great benefaction places in the hands of the Johns Hopkins University is most inspiring. It is comparable to that presented to the university at its beginning for the promotion of higher education, and later to the medical school and the hospital for advancement of the standards and methods of medical education. The responsibilities devolving upon the university in this new undertaking, entrusted to it with such high hopes, are commensurate with the splendid opportunities. May we not confidently anticipate that in this new field the results will be in keeping with the achievements of the university in the other fields it has cultivated so successfully?

#### THE NATIONAL EXPOSITION OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

RECENTLY the managers of the Second National Exposition of Chemical Industries, at the Grand Central Palace, New York, during the week of September 25, had to arrange the second floor for exhibits, and now they report that there are but a few spaces still remaining on that floor.

To meet the requirements of the societies which will hold meetings at the Grand Central Palace the auditorium has had to be increased in size, so that now it will comfortably seat 500 persons. An automatic motion-picture machine of the latest design will be used to display the motion pictures, many of which