

of the emergency special committee held in Philadelphia last November and in Chicago last December, brought out a rather confusing lack of agreement as to the effects of preventive measures, and of modes of treatment, upon the form of the epidemic wave, and as to the kinds and character of statistical data available. The work and recommendations of the other three registration and tabulation sub-committee will result in bringing before the coming meeting data that are more uniform, and so better adapted to comparative study towards discovering the quantitative relationships which hold in this epidemic and which it holds in common with other epidemics.

Towards having epidemiology take another step or two away from qualitative methods and towards quantitative research, an earnest invitation is hereby extended to members of the medical profession, to physical chemists and biochemists, to bacteriologists, to those interested in mathematical statistics and climatology, and others to attend the meetings on September 19 and 20, at Columbia University, and other meetings to be announced, and to participate freely in the deliberations of the committee. Meanwhile the chairman invites correspondence addressed to Pomona, N. Y.

Professor Svante Arrhenius pointed out in his Tyndall lectures that "physical chemistry allows us to follow quantitatively the influence of temperature and of foreign substances upon these interesting organic products, which are of the greatest importance in industry, in the physiological processes of daily life, and in diseases and their therapy." In the *Proceedings* of the Royal Society of Medicine, May, 1918, Vol. XI., No. 7, pages 85-132, John Brownlee, M.D., director of statistics, medical research committee, develops a theory in which "the organism producing the epidemic loses infecting power according to the law of a monomolecular reaction." Whether fitting curves to Pearsonian types or to those of immuno-chemistry shall lead to statistical light on influenza remains to be seen. These and other questions remain to be discussed by this committee

in a spirit of scientific open-minded search for the truth.

CHARLES C. GROVE,
Chairman

THE NEW ENGLAND FEDERATION OF NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

THE fall meeting of the Federation will be held at Fall River on Friday and Saturday, September 26 and 27, with the Fall River Society of Natural History. The meeting will be in the parish house of the First Baptist Church on Pine Street just below Main. Take cars from the depot to Pine Street. For information in regard to hotels or other local matters write to Mr. Norman S. Easton, Fall River.

The Fall River Society will make a large exhibit illustrating the Natural History of the country around the city. Other exhibits are desired from societies and individuals. The exhibition will be open to the public all day Friday and Saturday. Packages may be sent to the parish house in care of the janitor.

Friday evening, September 26, there will be a public meeting at which there will lectures and addresses by several members. Saturday morning there will be excursions into the country for observation and collecting led by local members. Saturday at 2 P.M. there will be a meeting for business, for reports from the societies of the federation and or discussion of the exhibits and the mornings collections.

J. H. EMERTON,
Secretary

30 IPSWICH ST.,
BOSTON, MASS.

THE MARY CLARK THOMPSON MEDAL

THE president of the National Academy of Sciences, on authority of the Council of the Academy, has appointed the following committee to serve as the committee for the award of the Mary Clark Thompson Gold Medal, to be awarded annually for meritorious services in geology and paleontology: John M. Clarke, *Chairman*, Gano Dunn and Henry Fairfield Osborn.

The Academy accepted the gift in the following resolution: