

seems that Quetelet was right. The paper of 1845 "Sur l'appréciation des documents statistiques et la théorie des moyennes" ("On the valuation of statistical documents and the averages"), was a first step in the science called biometry to-day. On the other hand, the actual prodigious rise and the important developments of mathematical statistics justify Quetelet's idea of considering the statistical method the function of the calculus of probabilities.

For Quetelet, statistics are a science. If this is so, it is not sufficient to collect documents and numbers, taking care only to group them so as to make comparisons more easy. That is administrative statistics. There is also the more important scientific side which values the documents and the results, and draws conclusions from them. That is scientific, or better, mathematical statistics, to which all administrative statistics must aim. A hundred years ago, Fourier said: "Statistical researches will make no real progress until they are performed by those who have thoroughly investigated mathematical theories."

It has been rightly said that Quetelet's average man died before his author. The average man, far from being, in a way, the type of the species, is simply impossible. Cournot and Bertillon have given a justified and definite criticism of this theory of the "type." As to the average moral man, he is a pure mathematical fiction. To-day that theory is quite forgotten.

Quetelet was a great Belgian. Endowed with a superior mind, a high and clear intelligence, being a real scientist, a persevering investigator, he has given a vital impulse to the study of science in Belgium. His work is complex; it abounds in valuable and deep teachings. Quetelet was a real statistician. For more than a quarter of a century he has been an important figure in the intellectual life of Belgium. He has truly given momentum to Belgian thought.

CONSTANT LURGUIN

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

NEW MEDICAL CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY

A NEW medical center, which is to cost approximately \$20,000,000 and is to embody the latest developments in cooperation between hospitals, medical colleges and research institutions, is assured for New York City with the announcement by the Board of Managers of the Presbyterian Hospital of its decision to erect a building jointly with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University at Broadway and 168th Street.

According to the *New York Times*, the structure,

which will be the center of a group of buildings, will cost \$10,000,000, exclusive of the land. That section to be occupied by the College of Physicians and Surgeons will cost \$3,000,000. This amount has already been subscribed. The Presbyterian Hospital section will cost \$7,000,000, of which \$2,500,000 is available, leaving \$4,500,000 still to be raised.

When the medical center is completed there will be available in one place the services of leading specialists in every branch of medicine. It is said that the institution will surpass Berlin, Vienna or any other center in Europe. This will be the first complete adaptation of the medical center idea to the needs of New York City. It is planned to include, in a well-coordinated form, every type of special hospital and institution necessary for the treatment of any patient and the training of any specialist who has to do with the protection and promotion of health.

The tentative plan was first announced three years ago. Since that time careful study of the medical centers now in operation at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Yale and other institutions has been made by the joint administrative board.

In addition to facilities for the care of patients, the new building will provide a place for scientists to collaborate in research work, and will have the equipment for training practitioners. Thus the center will embody three branches—care, research and teaching. It also will contain a nucleus for a medical group of wider scope, and it is expected that around it will be drawn such institutions as a dental school, a maternity hospital, a children's hospital and a neurological institute.

The hospital section of the building will be directly connected with the medical college. Faculty members, who will also be on the staff of the hospital, and students observing, will thus no longer lose the time they now must spend in going between classrooms, hospitals and laboratories scattered in various parts of the city.

The private pavilion, with 125 rooms, will also be attached to the building, and the income from these rooms will be devoted to meet the cost of free work in the wards. One of the features will be private rooms to be rented to relatives and friends who wish to stay near patients.

Within a short time the Presbyterian Hospital will launch a campaign—the first public appeal it has ever made—for gifts in order to raise the \$4,500,000 necessary to complete the building fund. Members of the building fund committee are Thatcher M. Brown, Cornelius R. Agnew, the Rev. Dr. George Alexander, Robert W. Carle, Henry W. de Forest, W. E. S. Griswold, Dean Sage, Johnston de Forest, Samuel H. Fisher and William Sloane Coffin.