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SCIENCE

Vol. LXIV

NOVEMBER 12, 1926

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CONTENTS

Hygiene as a World Force: Dr. Andrew Balfour	459
rrangements for the Philadelphia Meeting of the American Association: Dr. Burton E. Livingston	466
Samuel Boardman Brown: Professor Earl R. Scheffel	469
Scientific Events: The Volcanic Eruption on the Island of Bali; Results of the Smithsonian-Chrysler Expedition to Africa; The Greenland Expedition of the American Museum; Grants from the Laura Spelman Rocke- feller Memorial	469
Scientific Notes and News	471
University and Educational Notes	
Discussion and Correspondence: A Priceless Darwin Letter: Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn. Mammoth found in Loess of Washington: O. W. Freeman. A Correction: Professor Edwin B. Wilson	476
Quotations: Dr. Welch's New Chair	478
Scientific Books: Gager's General Botany: Dr. John M. Coulter	478
Special Articles: The Factor of Age in the Chemical Stability of the Blood during Gestation: Professor William de B. MacNider. The Magnetic Moment of Atomic Hydrogen: T. E. Phipps and J. B. Taylor	479
American Association for the Advancement of Science:	
The Fall Meeting of the Executive Committee Soience News	481 x

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HYGIENE AS A WORLD FORCE¹

My first and pleasing duty is to thank most heartily and sincerely the authorities of the Johns Hopkins University for the great honor they have done me in asking me to be present here to-day and to deliver an address upon such an auspicious and important occasion. It would have been very easy for them to find on this side of the Atlantic some one well fitted to perform the task and far more in touch with the great march of public health in the United States than I am; some one also with a more extensive knowledge of hygiene as now practiced and developed in countries with temperate climates, for many years of my working life were spent in a land where public health work was in its infancy. It is only since taking up residence in England, and especially since my association with that undertaking which, in large measures, owes its inception and progress to the beneficent generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation, that I have had opportunities of becoming intimately acquainted with those modern movements which have wrought so great a change in the domain of state medicine.

A study of hygiene in England, and particularly of the history of hygiene, has, however, shown me why, in all probability, those responsible desired to have a speaker from that country. England is undoubtedly the cradle of modern hygiene, that is to say, it was in England that the principles and practices of hygiene were first properly developed and placed on a sound administrative basis. Thus other nations have acquired the habit of looking upon England as a leader in the great campaign against disease and death. This habit, flattering to the old country, and the term "old country" includes Scotland, Ireland and Wales, was undoubtedly justifiable in the early days of public health, and I trust may still be looked upon as wise and salutary, even though the old country has now much to learn from other lands, more especially from this great and wealthy republic of the west. On the other side of the Atlantic we are perhaps a little apt to forget that, in the historic sense, America has public health traditions of considerable antiquity and that, if England is a cradle

¹ Address delivered at the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Johns Hopkins University, at the exercises commemorating the opening of the new building of the School of Hygiene and Public Health, on October 22, 1926.

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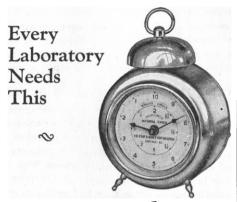
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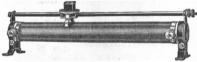
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