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CONTENTS

<i>The Public Health Work of Professor Sedgwick:</i> PROFESSOR GEORGE C. WHIPPLE.....	171
<i>Our Disappearing Wild Plants:</i> ALBERT A. HANSEN	178
<i>A Suggestion for making our Scientific Publications more useful and Our Post-offices a center of Information:</i> PROFESSOR HERDMAN F. CLELAND	180
<i>Scientific Events:—</i>	
<i>The Institute of Human Paleontology; A Canadian Agricultural Journal; Scientific Lectures at the University of Minnesota; The Marsh Fund of the National Academy of Sciences; The Election of Dr. Angell as President of Yale University</i>	182
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	185
<i>University and Educational News</i>	187
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>On a Bottle which drifted from the Gulf of Maine to the Azores:</i> JAMES W. MOOR. <i>An Adjustable Embouchure:</i> PROFESSOR ARTHUR GORDON WEBSTER. <i>Variation in Taraxacum:</i> DR. PAUL B. SEARS	187
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Youngken's Pharmaceutical Botany:</i> DR. H. H. M. BOWMAN	188
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>Two Limestone Formations of the Cretaceous of Texas which transgress Time Diagonally:</i> DR. ROBT. T. HILL	190
<i>The American Mathematical Society:</i> R. G. D. RICHARDSON	191
<i>The American Astronomical Society:</i> PROFESSOR JOEL STEBBINS	193

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORK OF PROFESSOR SEDGWICK¹

WILLIAM THOMPSON SEDGWICK, son of William and Anne Thompson Sedgwick, was born at West Hartford, Connecticut, December 29, 1855. His colonial ancestor was Robert Sedgwick, who settled in Boston in 1636. He studied at the Sheffield Scientific School, the Yale Medical School, and Johns Hopkins University. On his twenty-sixth birthday he married Mary Katrine Rice, at New Haven, Connecticut. In 1883 he came to Boston and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where for thirty-eight years he was professor of biology and public health. He died at Boston, January 25, 1921, at the age of sixty-five.

These simple facts tell who Professor Sedgwick was. But what he was and what his life meant to the people of Boston, to hundreds of young students, to the science of public health, and to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can not yet be told or even estimated. His death is too recent and our thoughts are still so touched with sadness that one can not adequately picture his manifold activities or form a just appreciation of his life or his place in history. But in the various eulogies already written a few words stand out prominently and must be regarded as characteristic of the man. The words are service, public service, kindness, serenity, inspiration, buoyant optimism, love of young men. Let these suffice. They are eulogy enough for any man.

I can not write about Professor Sedgwick's work in public health without saying more about my own relations to it than is becoming on such an occasion—but it is characteristic of his work that it was not done in the seclusion

¹ A memorial address delivered at Unity House, Boston, February 6, 1921, by Professor George C. Whipple, of Harvard University. Professor Sedgwick was to have spoken at this meeting on the subject of Child Welfare.