

his account of the colleges and universities of the United States. In this last article he describes Yale, University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins university, the American school for classical studies at Athens, and colleges for the higher education of women.

— The new vice-chancellor of Cambridge university is Dr. Taylor, master of St. John's college.

— The various state teachers' associations take advantage of the Christmas vacation to hold their annual or semi-annual meetings. Among others, the New Jersey teachers are to meet at Trenton; the Iowa teachers, at Des Moines; the Michigan teachers, at Lansing; the Associated academic principals of New York state, at Syracuse.

— M. Goblet, the minister of public instruction in M. de Freycinet's cabinet, has become premier of France. The new minister of public instruction is M. Berthelot, who has been for some time an inspector of secondary schools.

— Dr. W. W. Ireland, the well-known alienist, publishes in the *Journal of mental science* (October, 1886) an admirable account of the insanity of King Louis II. of Bavaria. The influences of hereditary neuroses, the gratification of what were at first slight eccentricities, and the gradual evolution of the most serious symptoms of hopeless insanity, make this case almost a type of the influences most favorable to mental instability. The king was not only insane, but typically insane.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*.*Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.

Pleuro-pneumonia.

IN your issue of Nov. 26 you speak of the prevalence of pleuro-pneumonia in the counties of Harvard, Clinton, Newton, Jasper, and Benton.

1°. There is no Harvard county: presumably you mean *Howard*.

2°. Dr. Salmon and the officers of the state board of health declare the disease to be 'black leg,' and up to date about 400 head have died in this state. Dr. Salmon announces there is now no pleuro-pneumonia in the western states except at and near Chicago, Ill.

AMOS W. BUTLER.

Brookville, Ind., Nov. 29.

[The reports that contagious pleuro-pneumonia existed in Indiana are denied, and it is now stated that what was reported to be that disease is pronounced by Dr. Salmon and the officers of the state board of health to be 'black leg,' from which 400 head of cattle are said to have died. It is also stated that Dr. Salmon of the U. S. bureau of animal industry has announced that there is no contagious pleuro-pneumonia in the western states except at and near Chicago, Ill.]

On this subject we quote from a letter just received

from Dr. D. E. Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry: "In reference to the districts in which contagious pleuro-pneumonia exists in the United States, would say, that beginning with Long Island, New York, and Westchester counties, in the state of New York, we have found it to exist in various parts of New Jersey and the south-eastern part of Pennsylvania. The points of infection are continually changing in these states, and it is a very difficult thing to make a definite statement by counties. In Maryland there is a good deal of the disease in Baltimore and vicinity, but the remainder of the state appears to be nearly free. The District of Columbia has been infected for a long time, but I do not know of any herds here in which the disease exists now. Probably a vigorous inspection would discover some. In Virginia I do not know of any infected district except Norfolk. This is all there is east of the Alleghanies. In the Mississippi valley states there is but one outbreak at present, and that is in Cook county, Ill. The disease which I investigated in Indiana was 'verminous bronchitis,' or lung worms." — ED.]

Liberty's torch.

The noble statue of Bartholdi in New York harbor suffers a great injustice, so far as the idea of its conception goes, and the requisites for its most complete artistic presentation is concerned, in being made to hold a star in its hand instead of a wavering pile of flame. The blue orb of intense light shining from the uplifted hand poorly represents the lambent and rolling stalks of fire which the thought of a torch suggests, and fails to accentuate the statue with any dramatic or spectacular force.

The attempt should be made to burn a large volume of gas properly distributed over the present surface of the torch, and this would seem altogether feasible. A consumption of from a thousand to two thousand cubic feet of gas per hour might be required, but the result would be incomparably more striking and noteworthy. A series of one-inch pipes passing up into the torch, emerging at various points so as to completely invest it with the confluent flames issuing from their openings, would probably serve the purpose, the gas being permitted to burn under a pressure but slightly in excess of its own ascensional power. Two objections might be urged against this proposition, — first, the smokiness of the flame, producing an ugly and dirty appearance; second, the probability of its extinction in high gales. The first objection has not really much weight, as the tail of drifting smoke would hardly detract from the splendor of the pillar of flame, and in any case could be considerably overcome by an efferent tube with a perforated circular cap feeding air to the summit of the torch, somewhat on the plan of the central air-channel in the popular climax oil-lamp. The second objection is valid, but only in extreme cases; and, as the gas should be lit by electricity, the highest gales would only alter the constancy of the light, its extinction being succeeded by the renewed flame. Again by curving the extremities of the pipe, even these exceptional cases might be yet further reduced in number. The gas might be supplied from the mainland, or if that appears too expensive, or itself impracticable, naphtha or gasoline gas (enriched air) could be safely used, the precaution being taken of substituting for the large tubes bundles of smaller pipes.