

SCIENCE CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN.

AT the last meeting of the Science Club of the University of Wisconsin, Mr. H. L. Russell favored the club with an exceedingly valuable and timely address on 'Some Recent Investigations relative to Communicable Diseases.' Mr. Russell can speak with authority upon this subject and his expression of opinion regarding the efficiency of methods for preventing the spread of diseases and for eradicating them has an especial interest at this time.

Beginning with a brief synopsis of the state of knowledge concerning the nature and life history of the malarial parasite, Mr. Russell discussed the recent researches as to the relation that mosquitoes hold in the propagation of malaria. The establishment of a definite host in which the sexual propagation of the organism of malaria occurs, and a thorough proof of the rôle that this suctorial insect plays in the dissemination of this disease is one of the most brilliant discoveries in biology in recent years.

The discoveries relating to the bubonic plague were then taken up. After discussion of the etiology of the disease and the method by which it is disseminated, the recent methods of treatment including the preventive and curative treatment were presented. It was pointed out that the United States should with a rigorous quarantine escape the bubonic plague since the period required for the organism of the plague to develop in a patient is less than the time required for vessels to reach our shores from infected oriental ports.

Following this a general discussion of the principles underlying the action of therapeutic and prophylactic treatments of different communicable diseases was given embracing the methods of vaccination that result in the production of active and passive immunity in the body of animals as well as of human beings.

WM. H. HOBBS.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

A NATIONAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF THE  
HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY AND COGNATE  
ARTS AND SCIENCES.

IT is a matter for rejoicing that not only the principal American universities and various in-

stitutes, but also a number of professional colleges, among them those of medicine and pharmacy, have accumulated and are in the possession of more or less comprehensive libraries and museums and that they are aiming at their constant enlargement and completion. Such libraries and museums cannot fail to become more and more potent auxiliaries in the educational and literary objects of these institutions as well as an efficient factor for the advancement of American scholarship and culture.

Most of these libraries are of comparatively recent origin and generally embrace the pertinent scientific and professional literature of modern times but rarely contain any considerable amount of works of past centuries. Such older books are scarcely any longer in the book market and are rarely available except by chance as is particularly the case with works that specially relate to the remoter eras of the history of alchemy, of pharmacy, materia medica, spices, etc. Whoever has had experience in the fascinating study in these domains of historical research will be familiar with the difficulty of finding in any one of the great European libraries an approximately complete collection of the extant literature of all ages. There is quite a difference in this respect among the foremost libraries; they are mostly well provided with the general literature of the past, but are more or less deficient in this special domain of historical records. But in the multiplicity of the great book collections, particularly in Germany, libraries specially rich in ancient works relating to the history of materia medica, alchemy and pharmacy are sometimes located in close proximity and even in one city, like the comprehensive historical libraries of the German National Museum and that of the municipality at Nuremburg, the University and the city libraries at Leipsic and the various great libraries in Berlin, London and Paris. Shortcomings of this kind in the various European libraries are of less consequence to the student as the distances in Central Europe are not considerable and as books are distributed on loan by mail by most libraries.

It is, however, different in a younger civilization, and in a country of so vast an extent as the United States, where the prevailing multi-