28: "Travels through the Mountains of Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota," Dr. Fred J. Seaver, curator.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that the University of California and Stanford University have organized a Western School of Public Health to assist health departments of western states in the training of public health personnel. Social security funds are used to finance the school and the education of certain public health workers. Health officers, public health nurses, sanitary inspectors, public health statistical technicians and public health laboratory technicians in the ten western states are eligible on recommendation of their health officers for attendance at these courses, which will be given during the summer months. The object is to train those who are already employed in health departments, provided they are considered worthy of receiving additional education. Applicants for the regular work, which may lead to a degree in public health, will be asked to meet definite matriculation requirements and must be within certain specified age limits.

Current Science states that the National Institute of Sciences of Calcutta, India, will issue each year a publication under the title "Indian Science Abstracts," the sub-title being "An Annotated Bibliography of Science in India." This publication, the first part of which appeared recently, plans to include abstracts of all scientific papers published in India, as also of papers published abroad on work done in India or based on Indian material.

ACCORDING to an Associated Press dispatch from Moscow, a new program of education in the medical sciences was announced on September 9 by the Soviet government. Measures were outlined to increase the number and to improve the training of doctors, nurses, dentists and druggists. A decree by the Communist Executive Committee provided for establishment of many new schools, including junior medical schools with three-year courses and an enrolment of 447,700 students; midwifery schools with two-year courses and capacity for 13,300 students, and nursing courses for 95,000.

THE London *Times* states that many species of bacteria and microfungi have been added to the National Collection of Type Cultures of microorganisms during the past five years, and the fourth edition of the catalogue, issued by the Medical Research Council, is enlarged to 143 pages. The extensive collection at the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, of wood-destroying fungi and fungi causing discoloration in timber has been made available, as have also various filterable viruses maintained in a number of medical and research institutions. A valuable collection of yeasts and other micro-organisms of importance in the fermentation industries has been presented by the executrix of the late A. Chaston Chapman. The nomenclature of that important group of food-poisoning organisms known as Salmonella occupies nine and one half pages in the catalogue. Attention is directed by the council to the continued need for the deposition of newly described species and also for fresh examples of types at present in the collection.

Nature states that thanks to the generosity of Sir MacPherson Robertson, a new building has been completed in Melbourne for the housing of the National Herbarium collections, and the transfer of material is in progress. The building is a block, approximately 100 ft. by 80 ft., containing two floors. On the upper floor provision is made for the collections (numbering some 1,500,000 sheets) and for a library of more than 10,000 volumes. On the lower floor are a museum of economic botany, a laboratory, a lecture hall and the administrative offices. The construction is fire-proof throughout; all cabinets are of steel and the main door is guarded by fire-proof devices operating automatically when the temperature reaches a certain point. The collection was commenced about 1856 by the late Baron von Mueller, and it is intended to preserve the existing division into two sections (i) Australian and (ii) extra-Australian. The former is very complete and contains a number of type specimens. The room allotted to it is 60 ft. by 35 ft., allowing for 30 per cent. expansion, or 55 per cent. if further cabinets be installed. The extra-Australian section, which is already extensive and is continually growing by exchanges, will be housed in a room 80 ft. by 35 ft.

DISCUSSION

FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE OF OLIVER WOLCOTT GIBBS

THREE volumes of manuscript letters to and from Oliver Wolcott Gibbs (1822–1908) in the new library of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia form a delightful and informative chapter in the long history of American science. Gibbs was in Cambridge from 1863 until he retired to Newport in 1887 to continue research. He is part of Harvard's scientific life. He was president of the National Academy from 1895 to 1900, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1897, and served on the Rumford committee of the American Academy from 1864 to 1894. His researches centered on work with