

called the students together and explained the situation in detail, promising them that nothing known to the authorities should be concealed from them. An adequate corps of nurses was secured and installed in the infirmary. Nine cases developed, of which only one is serious. No new cases have appeared, and there is every reason to believe that the epidemic has reached its limit. Williamstown is one of the most healthful as well as one of the most beautiful villages in the country. Its water has always been irreproachable. The experts who have made an examination found it of an unusually pure quality, and the dairies of the locality showed not a trace of typhoid contamination at any point. Dr. Soper, the sanitary expert, reports that no trace of any contamination has been found either in the milk or in the water supply, and that the drainage, both surface and underground, of the college properties is eminently satisfactory. The physicians have not yet agreed upon a statement in regard to the probable sources of the disease, but it appears to be settled that its source is outside Williamstown, and as no later cases have occurred, there appears to be no further cause for anxiety. At Brown University, where the same prompt steps were taken to investigate and to prevent the spread of the disease, its source has not been discovered. There are less than the usual number of typhoid cases in Providence, and the students who have been ill—seven in number—live in various localities. There, as in Williamstown, no further cases have developed, and it is believed that there will be no further trouble.

Relief for Macedonia

As in former emergencies in Armenia and in India, the missionaries of the American Board in Macedonia are devoting themselves to the relief of the destitute and starving survivors of the recent sanguinary commotions. The condition of these is reported in a recent letter to the Board as "appalling." The Board has authorized its missionaries to act as a relief committee without charge to the funds contributed. Thus, every dollar

given here is bestowed there without deduction. It is well that the relief work is in the hands of those so well conversant with the people and their needs. It is understood that the Red Cross Society undertakes no part of the task. The latest reports show great need of food, clothing, and bed-covering. For the last-named purpose over five hundred heavy woolen carpets had been given out, "many of them large enough to cover a good-sized family." Temporary work is found for refugees in the making of coarse but warm garments. Over ten thousand pounds of flour had been procured, to be doled out in small quantities. The country at that time was not yet free from pillage and murder committed by bands of Turkish soldiers, and on top of these miseries the tithe-gatherer was after the wretched people. Relief contributions may be sent to Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., bankers, Boston, Massachusetts.

A Notable Portrait Exhibition

Few exhibitions of paintings have ever been held in America more deserving of patronage than is the present loan exhibition for the benefit of the Orthopaedic Hospital, at the American Art Galleries, New York City. The display of portraits has, we think, never been equaled in this country. Among the old masters are represented Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Ferdinand Bol, Romney, Sir Henry Raeburn, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Gainsborough, Hoppner, Copley, Madame Le Brun, and Gilbert Stuart. Among modern artists the American school is well to the fore, with Mr. Sargent leading. The hanging of his portraits side by side emphasizes his lack of poetic delicacy, but also his brilliant if at times seemingly brutal frankness—a frankness, however, always full of genius and suggestiveness. Messrs. Alexander, Chase, Millet, Weir, Porter, Beckwith, Benson, Kenyon Cox, and other Americans are represented by portraits which are some of them as admirable as Mr. Sargent's, and at least as remarkable as those by MM. Carolus-Duran, Helleu, and other eminent foreign contemporaries.

ries. Lastly, Mr. Saint Gaudens shows several bronze reliefs which are in some respects the most notable feature of the exhibition. The whole event is another and an impressive indication of the development of the standards of taste and skill among American artists and art lovers.

sioners *ex officio*. Evidences appear in other parts of the country, both East and West, that Congregationalists are awakening to the need of closer organization and concerted action for the full development of their ability to meet the changed conditions, both urban and rural, of the present time.

Modernized Congregationalism

The Congregational churches of Boston and vicinity have taken a forward step in consolidating their forces for greater efficiency. The three conferences into which they have been divided—Suffolk North, Suffolk South, and Suffolk West—have come together in a Union Conference. The feature new to Congregationalists which this introduces is a board of five commissioners, whose function is “to consider the duties and responsibilities of the Congregational churches of Boston and vicinity for Christian work, and take such initiative as is necessary.” A rather singular and, as it would seem, a belated case of the extreme independency out of which the Congregational churches gradually worked during the last century appeared in the opposition which this plan provoked at a recent meeting of the Congregational Club in Boston, on the ground that it proposed to substitute for the autonomy of the churches a sort of oligarchical control. This seems rather an extravagant suspicion to attach to a proposal for taking the initiative in Christian work, a thing which has certainly never yet been overdone, and the effect of which must always depend on the voluntary support which it can persuade. The problem of Congregationalism, as a mode of church order, is how to combine the advantage of local autonomy with that of the unified action of more centralized systems. This problem has been worked at for a century with gradually advancing success, but at every stage it has been obstructed by the objection offered in the present case. The Congregational Church Union of Boston and vicinity, as now organized, is further strengthened by an annually elected directorate of twenty-one, including the five commis-

What People are Reading

There is perhaps no better indication of the civilization of a country than the books it reads. So many contradictory statements have been made about the number of people in the United States who are reading and about the kind of books they are reading, that The Outlook has invited a librarian of large experience who has become an authority in his department, a publisher in the first rank, a bookseller who has had unusual opportunities of knowing the kind of books that people buy, and a woman whose connection with the work undertaken for farmers at Cornell University has given her command of a body of information never before collected in this country, to give to its readers their impressions of the extent to which books are read by Americans, and the kind of books that are most popular. An ounce of actual knowledge is worth a pound of theorizing on this subject. The views of these competent judges will be found elsewhere in this number of The Outlook. The casual observer who knows the quality of many of the books which sell into the tens of thousands, and who looks over the mass of publication which comes from the press, jumps to the conclusion that everything is going to the bad in a literary way. But Mr. Dana, whose opportunities of studying the situation at first hand are such as very few people possess, believes that possibly two or three millions of people are reading standard literature of all kinds, and that this throng grows larger every year; that it includes all classes of people, young readers being very much in the majority, one-third of all the books loaned from the public library of Newark going into the hands of readers of this class, and seventy-four per cent. of these