

In the United States in 1910-11 there were 19,786 students in all medical schools and colleges, the smallest number since 1900. Of this number 680 were women, of whom 159 graduated. The total number of graduates in the United States in 1911 was 4,273—the smallest number in ten years. The percentage of total graduates is 21.6 per cent.

In Canada we have eight regular medical colleges, in two of which the teaching is in French. In the United States thirteen medical schools suspended or merged into others during the year. Of the 120 now in existence 101 are regular, 12 homeopathic and 7 eclectic.

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### TUBERCULOSIS AND SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

An example showing how tuberculosis responds to sanitary administration is found in the report of the Medical Health Officer of Melbourne, Australia, where for the past two decades there has been a remarkable decrease in the mortality from this disease.

For the five-year period, 1891-1895, the tuberculosis death-rate of Melbourne (population 100,000) was 2.7 per 1,000 of living inhabitants. For the period 1906-1910 this rate was reduced to 1.3 per 1,000. Dr. Jamieson, the health officer, calls attention in his report to the causes that have contributed to bring about this notable decrease in the consumption death-rate. He says that only in part is it due to the crusade which during recent years has been waged against all forms of tuberculosis, for the reason that the improvement noted antedates the crusade. He is of the opinion that higher standards of living, including improvement in housing facilities, must be given much credit. He then calls attention to the fact that during the past twenty years over 3,500 dwellings in Melbourne have been condemned as unfit for human habitation. All such buildings, it is pointed out, were thoroughly cleaned, rendered dry and sanitary and material structural defects affecting sanitary conditions remedied.—*Bulletin Chicago School of Sanitary Instruction*, October 28.

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### VITALITY OF BACTERIA.

The extraordinary vitality of bacteria is illustrated by a series of experiments undertaken by Prof. Busson, of which the German scientific review *Microcosmos* gives an account.

Seven years ago Prof. Busson transferred a culture of bacteria