not alone be to promote deserving men, as in the Hay-Root administration. A plan inaugurated by Mr. Huntington Wilson, Assistant Secretary of State, to whom much of the credit is said to be due for recent developments of the merit system, has now the President's authority. First of all, secretaryships in the diplomatic service are to be classified according to their relative importance. Second, an efficiency record is to be kept of every officer in the service, so that there may be no promotion except upon well-established efficiency, and that there may be no retention except upon the maintenance of an average high standard of efficiency. Moreover, the Secretary of State is directed to report from time to time to the President the names of those who have shown special capacity. Third, the initial appointments to secretaryships are to be made only to the lowest grades — that is to say, to the third secretaryship of an embassy, second secretaryship of a legation, or secretaryship where the legation has but one secretary. Vacancies in the higher classes are henceforth to be filled solely by promotion.

With such rules for examinations and promotions the U. S. diplomatic service should henceforth have a character of professional excellence. For this reason the administration is expecting the entrance into it, as into a permanent profession, of many more serious and efficient young men than those who, largely because of the spoils system, once encumbered the service.

THE VENTILATION QUESTION.

One of the chief complaints voiced in the sanitation portion of the memorial recently presented to the Government by the Inside service had reference to the ventilation — or rather lack of ventilation — of the government buildings. On ventilation merely as a problem in mechanics, the last word has not been said by any means. The following remarks from "National Construction" may be of interest in this connection at the present moment:

Ventilation should be as nature intended it, a gradual change of the air in every nook and corner of the room, without perceptible draft, but often enough to furnish each and every occupant of the room with pure air at all times.

The question of humidity is a question that must not be overlooked. Every one has at some time or another sat around a stove, register or radiator with his coat on, and complained because the house was cold when the thermometer showed 70 degrees or above. At the same time any one will go out-doors in the spring or summer time with his coat and hat both off and enjoy life when the thermometer registers 62 or 63 degrees. Why? Because the out-door air contains from 65 to 75 degrees of humidity, which is needed for comfort, while indoor air probably by hygrodeik test would only show from 25 to 40.

While there are many different ventilating systems there are only three systems of ventilation: mechanical or fan ventilation, semi-mechanical, and natural. A complete mechanical or fan system consists in removing the foul air and introducing the fresh air by fans, while the natural system depends upon the laws of nature, aided by heat, to positively withdraw the foul air, while the fresh ozone comes in naturally through properly equipped devices spread around the room to fill the place of the foul air so withdrawn. In very few office buidings has there been or can there be a complete mechanical system installed. From the very construction of office buildings, the building of conduits and of the vent flues are impracticable above the ground floors, and in fact, very few of our office buildings in this country have made any effort toward ventilation outside of the basement or banking floors, managers leaving it to the tenants to suffocate or furnish their own ventilation in their offices. While we do not depreciate, and are as willing to engineer and lay out a plenum system of ventilation as we are the natural system, still when our advice is asked and taken, we recommend the