

situation. One subsection may do some good. The Board of Education is vested with power to raise the money required in the same manner as for other school purposes. But it may be a long time before the Board may be disposed to act in the matter.

It is to be hoped that this fear may not materialize, and that suitable accommodation and facilities for treating the feeble-minded may soon be forthcoming. There is no need further to dwell on the need. This has been doubly proven long ago.

THE VALUE OF EXPERIMENT.

There have been many who have condemned experiments upon the lower animals. These objectors have ranked among their numbers scientists of high standing, a few medical men, and a host of sentimentalists. The scientists may be ruled out as not being trained in medical methods of observation. Thus the late Alfred Russell Wallace was quite out of his sphere of thinking and observation when he denounced vaccination against smallpox. The host of sentimentalists must be ignored for two reasons: lack of proper training, and their prejudices cloud their vision so that they cannot see the bearing of the facts revealed by these experiments. In this class one could place the late Mr. Goldwin Smith. There remain as opponents only a few medical men, whose opposition might influence public opinion. It must be held that they are either ignorant of the proper methods, or are dishonest. In this class might be mentioned the late Dr. A. M. Ross, an old U.S. army doctor, who died in Toronto some years ago.

Experiment is one of the rocks on which true medical science has been built. To see the proof for this statement one has only to recall to mind the disease known as rabies. As the result of a wisely conducted chain of observations and experiments this terrible disease can now be successfully treated. If we turn our thought to typhoid fever we have another brilliant example of value of research. This severe disease, and the curse of the armies, is now perfectly mastered, and its prevention one of the easiest of events. As the result of experiment and its application to preventive medicine, we have the Panama Canal to-day.

One of the most successful of experimental investigations is the one which has led to a true knowledge of infantile paralysis. Here the proof that the disease is of a microbic origin has been absolutely settled. The infection enters through nasal mucous membrane. But while it is true that the organism enters through the nasal fossae, it is also true that nature there has established her lines of defence. This defensive system may be adversely affected by the state of the membranes and by the