

Many other forms of filters have been employed as chemical filters of various kinds, carbon filters, but the three described above have proven the most successful, and may be relied upon.

With the advent of the modern filtration methods we have practically solved the problem of pure water supply, and millions of urban inhabitants are being supplied with the comparatively pure liquid which is so essential to their existence. The triumph of modern scientific methods has produced greater sanitation, and a decided improvement in the state of the public health. Careful observation, and analysis of the sources of water supply, reveal the daily condition. Thus so far as the efforts of man, in the employment of modern scientific methods are concerned, causes of epidemics are well under control, and the era of infectious diseases from these sources, is rapidly passing by. —A. E. W., '23.

HELIUM—ITS HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE.

ALTHOUGH for the last thirty years, helium has been a source of much interest to chemists because of its inertness and its rarity, it is only within the past eight years that its practical importance has been recognized. During the period of the world war, when men in every branch of science were bending every effort towards discovering means for both the preservation and the destruction of human life; in this brief period of four years, when science and invention made more rapid progress than in the preceding century, came the recognition of the importance of helium for both military and commercial purposes. For it was in this period that aerial navigation made most rapid progress, and it is in connection with aerial navigation that the practical importance of helium lies.

As we have intimated above, the history of helium covers only the last thirty years. It is true that in 1868 Sir J. Lockyer detected an orange line in the sun's spectrum, which up to that time had not been discovered in any known terres-