

in less than half the time and at less than half the cost formerly necessary. A strong case can be made out for the claim that the electric water heater is more trustworthy than any other type. At Wimbledon there are 5,000 of the self-cleaning type installed and there has not been a failure. Serious accidents due to electric water heaters are practically unknown. During the severe weather last winter, only twelve heaters were put out of action, all of which functioned immediately the ice was melted in the supply pipes.

#### A Californian School of Education

To have directed one of the foremost schools of education in the United States from 1898 until 1933, to have presided during those thirty-five years over the training of nearly three thousand of the graduates whom it has sent out to all parts of the United States and beyond, many of them to occupy strategic positions in the educational world as professors, research workers and school and college executives, and to crown this life's work by presenting it with a new 500,000-dollar building paid for out of the proceeds, judiciously invested, of spare-time earnings during all those years—to few is it given in their declining years to look back on so satisfying an achievement. It is commemorated in a pamphlet recently issued by Stanford University in connexion with the opening of the University School of Education Building—the gift of Dean (emeritus) Cubberley and his wife. A noteworthy feature of the School since the Great War is the importance of the summer quarter, during which most of the students are school executives or teachers, contacts between whom and the School faculty have proved highly stimulating. The summer is indeed regarded as the most important quarter of the university year for instruction in the field of education. The delightful summer climate of the Santa Clara Valley is one of the School's most valuable assets. An article by the present Dean emphasizes the conception that professional study in education should have a foundation of scholarship in the social studies and in psychology and human biology. "The school has been one of the most static of the social institutions. . . . University schools of education have responsibility for developing new conceptions and techniques of education which are more adequate for modern society," so that the school system may develop in the people "the vision, the creativeness, the initiative, the critical-mindedness, the understanding, and the discipline which will . . . give expression to the democratic social ideals."

#### Museums of Norwich

THE Museums Committee of the City Council has just issued a report covering ten years' development (1929–1938) in the museums of Norwich. It has been a period of noteworthy progress, partly on account of the value and number of gifts and bequests made to the museums, but mainly on account of the advances made in museum arrangement and appeal. The exterior and amenities of the Castle Museum,

with its Norman keep and magnificent Norman doorway, have been attended to following the advice of H.M. Office of Works, and great reorganization has taken place in the collections exhibited within. It was a wise move to reduce the excessive space formerly given to exhibits, often reduplicated, of British birds, in order to allow a more balanced representation of the animal kingdom; and the creation of dioramas of representative stretches of Norfolk scenery with the appropriate flora and fauna adds greatly to the instructiveness and attraction of the collections. In the Art Galleries the valuable paintings of the Cotman period are undergoing restoration where this has been found to be desirable, and a scheme of redecoration has been followed by successful experiments in the rearranging of the pictures themselves. In other directions the museums show that they are keeping in pace with modern developments, and none of these is more gratifying than the success of the collaboration with the Education Authority for regular visits of school classes to the various museums.

#### Public Health Statistics of India

THE annual report of the Public Health Commissioner to the Government of India for 1936, in two volumes, has recently been issued (Government of India Press, New Delhi, 1938. Vol. 1, Rs. 2, or 3s. 6d.; vol. 2, Rs. 1, annas 10, or 2s. 9d). The state of the public health of the civil population in British India is surveyed in vol. 1. The mid-year estimated population was 281,866,639—an increase of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  millions over 1935. The death-rate was 23, and the birth-rate 35, per 1,000, and the infantile death-rate per 1,000 live births was 162, compared with 164 for 1935. The deaths from cholera numbered 160,000, some 57,000 less than in the previous year, and those from plague were only 13,000, less than half the figure for 1935; but the deaths from smallpox numbered 104,805 or 14,000 more than in the previous year. Deaths recorded under 'fevers' decreased by 4 per cent, but small percentage increases were recorded in respiratory diseases and the diarrhoea and dysentery group. Deaths recorded from hydrophobia numbered no fewer than 2,470. In vol. 2, the general health statistics of the British Army in India and of the Indian Army are considered. The general health of the troops seems to have been well maintained, though admissions to hospital among the British were a little higher than in the previous year. The incidence of the enteric group of fevers is the lowest ever recorded, and is particularly striking among the Indian troops. There has been no corresponding reduction among the civil population, but rather an increase. The decrease of enteric fevers in the Army must, it would seem, be ascribed to more general and better anti-typhoid vaccination, and to a more careful search for, and elimination of, carriers.

#### Child Welfare Organization

THE League of Nations has published the annual report on child welfare prepared by the Child Welfare Information Centre (London: George Allen and