

beyond the gutta-percha shell. Such drains may be removed without distress to the patient. The suggestion of Dr. Follis to rotate them on their long axis when beginning their extraction is a helpful one. The sinus leading to the cystic duct should be sterilized with bismuth paste or other antiseptic. I would warn against the use of Dakin's solution in so fresh a sinus lined by intestines. The results obtained by Dr. William C. Lusk by the persistent and frequent use of an antiseptic in the treatment of rectal fistula are significant.

W. S. HALSTED, M.D., Baltimore.

"STANDARDIZATION OF LABORATORY TESTS"

To the Editor:—In view of the comment on the desirability of standardizing certain laboratory procedures in the interest of uniformity of interpretations (THE JOURNAL, Dec. 6, 1919, p. 1773), readers will be interested in knowing that the Laboratory Section of the American Public Health Association has, for the past fifteen years, had committees on standard methods for various public health laboratory procedures. The more active of these have been the committees on the bacteriologic and chemical examinations of water and sewage, and on the examination of milk, of shell-fish, and of air. There have also been committees on the bacteriologic diagnosis of various diseases and on the making of various biologic products.

The work of these committees has been of great value. The report of the Committee on Standard Methods of Water Analysis has been rather generally adopted by water laboratories throughout the country.

The existence of standard methods of procedure has not tended to discourage research work. On the other hand, it has encouraged such work. Aside from those whose investigative initiative will lead them to carry on research work under any circumstances, the workers in various laboratories schooled in various methods of procedure and working under different conditions have carried on extensive investigations with the idea of determining whether or not the standard methods are an improvement on the methods previously employed, and wherein such methods fail under various conditions. Research work, once started, always suggests further lines of investigation.

About five years ago, a committee was appointed to consider the establishment of standard methods for the diagnosis of syphilis. This included, of course, the Wassermann test. The committee reported that in view of the fact that at that time few public health laboratories were making Wassermann tests, it was thought inadvisable to have the association proceed with the adoption of a standard method. The situation has, however, materially changed. The Wassermann test is now made in practically all the better state board of health laboratories as well as in the larger city board of health laboratories. Your suggestion is therefore opportune. It will be called to the attention of the Laboratory Section of the American Public Health Association.

HENRY ALBERT, M.D., Iowa City.

"ACUTE ABDOMEN"

To the Editor:—Did Homer nod or am I hypercritical? I have seen acute abdomens in insects, and even some fishes have abdomens that might be called acute; but an "acute abdomen" in man I have not yet seen except in print in a recent issue, and in bold face type too. Page 1797.

M. W. LYON, JR., M.D., South Bend, Ind.

[Respectfully referred to the surgeon whose foot the shoe fits; and there are several of him.—Ed.]

Maternal Welfare Clinics in Rural Districts.—Maternal clinics should be established in rural communities as well as in the larger centers of population. The work should be educational. There should be means of giving social and economic relief and there should be methods of furnishing medical and nursing supervision and care.—*Minnesota Health J.*, Nov. 20, 1919.

Medical Education, Registration and Hospital Service

COMING EXAMINATIONS

ALABAMA: Montgomery, Jan. 13. Chairman, Dr. Samuel W. Welch, Montgomery.
ARIZONA: Phoenix, Jan. 6-7. Sec., Dr. Ancil Martin, 207 Goodrich Bldg., Phoenix.
COLORADO: Denver, Jan. 6. Sec., Dr. David A. Strickler, 612 Empire Bldg., Denver.
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Washington, Jan. 13. Sec., Dr. Edgar P. Copeland, The Rockingham, Washington.
HAWAII: Honolulu, Jan. 5-8. Sec., Dr. J. R. Judd, Honolulu.
MINNESOTA: Minneapolis, Jan. 6-9. Sec., Dr. Thos. McDavitt, Lowry Bldg., St. Paul.
MISSOURI: St. Louis, Jan. 12-14. Sec., Dr. George H. Jones, State House, Jefferson City.
NATIONAL BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS: St. Louis and Chicago, Feb. 18-25. Sec., Dr. J. S. Rodman, 1310 Medical Arts Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.
NEW MEXICO: Santa Fe, Jan. 12-13. Sec., Dr. R. E. McBride, Las Cruces.
NEW YORK: New York City, Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Jan. 27-31. Asst. Professional Examinations, Mr. H. J. Hamilton, Albany.
NORTH DAKOTA: Grand Forks, Jan. 6. Sec., Dr. George M. Williamson, Grand Forks.
OKLAHOMA: Oklahoma City, Jan. 13-14. Sec., Dr. J. M. Byrum, Shawnee.
OREGON: Portland, Jan. 6. Sec., Dr. Frank W. Wood, 559 Morgan Bldg., Portland.
PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia, Jan. 13-17. Pres., Dr. John M. Baldy, Harrisburg.
RHODE ISLAND: Providence, Jan. 2-3. Sec., Dr. B. U. Richards, State House, Providence.
SOUTH DAKOTA: Pierre, Jan. 13. Sec., Dr. Park B. Jenkins, Waubay.
WASHINGTON: Spokane, Jan. 6-8. Sec., Dr. C. N. Suttner, 415 Old National Bank Bldg., Spokane.
WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston, Jan. 13. Sec., Dr. S. L. Jepson, Masonic Bldg., Charleston.
WISCONSIN: Madison, Jan. 13-15. Sec., Dr. John M. Dodd, 220 E. Second St., Ashland.

Maryland June Examination

Dr. J. McP. Scott, secretary of the Maryland Board of Medical Examiners, reports the written examination held at Baltimore, June 18-21, 1919. The examination covered 9 subjects and included 100 questions. An average of 75 per cent. was required to pass. Of the 109 candidates examined, 103 passed and 6 failed. The following colleges were represented:

College	PASSED	Year Grad.	Per Cent.
George Washington University	(1918)	76	
Howard University	(1918)	91	
Northwestern University	(1918)	81	
Johns Hopkins University	(1911) 75, (1917) 82, 84, 92, (1918) 82, 83, 87, 89, 90, 92, 92, 93, (1919) 77, 78, 79, 82, 84, 84, 84, 84, 85, 85, 85, 85, 86, 86, 86, 86, 87, 87, 87, 88, 88, 88, 88, 88, 88, 89, 89, 89, 89, 90, 90, 91, 91, 91, 91, 91, 92, 92, 93, 94, 96, 98,		
University of Maryland	(1912) 75, (1916) 84, (1917) 87, (1918) 76, 77, 77, 78, 78, 78, 79, 80, 80, 82, 85, 88, 90, (1919) 75, 78, 82, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 86, 87, 87, 87, 88, 88, 88, 89, 89, 92, 93,		
Harvard University	(1915)	85	
Washington University	(1918)	87	
Jefferson Medical College	(1918) 86, (1919)	83	
Meharry Medical College	(1918) 77, 78, 82, 83,		
FAILED			
Johns Hopkins University	(1917) 69, (1918)	73	
Maryland Medical College	(1913)	*	
University of Maryland	(1917) 68, (1918)	73	
Meharry Medical College	(1916)	*	

Dr. J. McP. Scott also reports that thirty-four candidates were licensed through reciprocity from Nov. 19, 1918, to Aug. 1, 1919. Three candidates were refused reciprocity certificates. The following colleges were represented:

College	LICENSED THROUGH RECIPROCITY	Year Grad.	Reciprocity with
Columbia University	(1890) Dist. Colum.		
Georgetown University	(1906) Dist. Colum.		
George Washington University	(1910), (1916) Dist. Colum.		
Howard University	(1904) Dist. of Columbia, (1912)		Louisiana
	(1914)		Virginia
Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery	(1916), (1918)		Illinois
Jenner Medical College	(1915)		Illinois
University of Louisville	(1909)		W. Virginia
Baltimore Medical College	(1907), (1911, 2)		West Virginia, (1913) Virginia
Baltimore University	(1891) †, (1904)		W. Virginia
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore	(1910)		W. Virginia
Johns Hopkins University	(1918)		Alabama
Maryland Medical College	(1908) West Virginia		(1909) Maine
	Pennsylvania,		
University of Maryland	(1905) North Carolina, (1914)		Maine, Penna.
	(1915)		
Missouri Medical College	(1879)		Missouri