

same publication speaks of the instantaneous deaths of men near whom a high-power shell explodes. Without being struck or wounded in any way, the explosion kills them, causing no visible disturbance.

They retain their positions, and the expression on their faces is unaltered. The shock of such a blow, weighing many atmospheres, extinguishes vitality as surely as would the club of Hercules. Those affected by these explosions, but not to a fatal degree, are said to exhibit the symptoms of concussion of the brain. In the terrible sacrifices being made daily our profession is bearing its full share. The medical corps of the British army is not immune to fatalities, because every successive report recites the names of surgeons, assistant surgeons and medical students who have given their lives to what they considered their duty.

HONEST ADVERTISING.

A recent number of the South Texas Medical Record contains a well thought out editorial with the above caption. In it the editor takes to task the many medical journals whose literary columns are devoted to useful articles but whose advertising pages are open to the display ads of manufacturing pharmacists who are pushing the sale of articles condemned as useless, or even fraudulent, by the A. M. A. Council on Chemistry and Pharmacy. The Record suggests as a remedy that doctors should refuse to read, or accept from the mails, such journals as advertise unethical or unapproved compounds and thinks that "three months" of such discipline would purify the medical press from this iniquity.

Though sympathizing with the Record this JOURNAL doubts the practicability or the efficacy of the method proposed.

The evil has its roots deep down in the prevailing system of medical education, wherein an abstruse system of pharmacology has supplanted clinical therapeutics, so that one might almost say that the more high-grade and pretentious the school of medicine from which

a man graduates the less practical knowledge he has about adapting available materia medica to the treatment of disease as seen at the bedside. For instance, in the announcement of certain A school pharmacology claims 130 hours, therapeutics 32 hours, and other prominent schools make even less mention of drugs and their prescription.

Consequently graduates of class A plus schools are often among the most liberal patrons of proprietary nostrums. Even college professors prescribe widely advertised preparations, guided only by their partisan literature and neither knowing nor caring what the council says of the drugs. Not until every medical college employs an earnest, competent, experienced therapist to teach therapeutics, one who knows by reading and experience what effect to expect from his medicines and is innocent of "nihilism," and allows him ample time for teaching, will it become unprofitable for manufacturers to provide and mercenary journals to advertise fake proprietary compounds, with pseudo-scientific names. Not until then will the voice of sample distributor cease from troubling.

THE ALABAMA SOCIETY FOR MENTAL HYGIENE.

In Alabama the power of co-operation is to be invoked by the organization of a Society for Mental Hygiene in affiliation with the National Committee on Mental Hygiene. It is announced that the chief purposes shall be: "To work for the conservation of mental health; for the prevention of brain diseases and deficiencies and for the improvement in facilities for the care and treatment of those suffering from nervous or mental diseases or mental deficiency." The plan of the work seems to be broad and thorough. It is done through eight standing committees: Education; Publicity; Clinics and Dispensaries; Membership and Finance; Survey or Census of Defectives, Epileptic, Malformed or Feeble-minded Children; Social Service; Legislation; Library.

The first effort is the instruction of the public in the principles and means that lead to mental hygiene, beginning with the children in the public schools. Through the effect thus produced it is expected that legislation can be secured that will improve conditions now existing, institutional or otherwise. The originator and moving spirit of this new movement is Dr. W. D. Partlow, of Tuscaloosa. For more than a decade he has been one of the physicians in the Alabama Bryce Hospital for

the Insane, and his good work has been widely recognized. He is one of the younger generation of doctors who consider their duties and privileges as citizens quite as important as their professional prestige, and he has freely and successfully participated in a number of civic movements for good government and reform. It would seem that there is need in every state of a Society for Mental Hygiene, and the Alabama organization is an excellent one to follow.

CORRESPONDENCE

A MEDICAL IMPOSTOR.

Bowling Green, Ky., November 22, 1915.
Editor Southern Medical Journal,
Birmingham, Ala.

A rascal by the name of Mason is traveling through the country putting up a very skillful plea to physicians for securing money from them under false pretenses. He usually claims to be one of the physicians from Bowling Green, and he has frequently given either father or myself as a reference. He is a slender, light-haired chap, and I am writing this letter in the hope that it will protect members of the profession from him. He was sent to jail here for obtaining money under false pretenses, and should be everywhere.

Very truly yours,

A. T. McCORMACK,
Secy. Kentucky State Medical Assn.

THE PREVENTIVE TREATMENT OF PELLAGRA BY INJECTIONS OF BAD MAIZE EXTRACTS.

Atlanta, Ga., October 10, 1914.
Editor Southern Medical Journal, Birmingham, Ala.:

While there can be no doubt that rest, good and assimilable food, and change of climate are of the utmost importance both in preventing recurrences of acute pellagrous attacks, and in warding off the graver symptoms in patients who have only suffered from the milder forms of the disease, and while such measures will in all probability continue to be our sheet anchor in the treatment of such cases, much interest attaches to certain results which have been recently obtained in the prevention of the classical pellagrous onsets by means of injections of extracts of bad maize.

As is well known, it was long ago discovered by Devoto, and his assistant Ascoli, that pellagrins exhibit a hypersensibility to extracts of bad maize, and that the conclusions of these writers were fully confirmed by the later investigations of Volpino, Mariani, Bordonì, Alpago-Novello, Cesa-Bianchi, Rondoni, and others. Somewhat later it occurred to Volpino that a state of resistance might be established by repeated injections of such extracts, and he, in conjunction with Bordonì, reported the results of his earlier investigations in the latter part of the year 1913. These observers began their work by repeatedly injecting rabbits intravenously with extracts of bad maize. Ten days after discontinuing this treatment some of the blood serum of these animals was mixed with solutions of what they have called "pellagrogenina," of varying strengths, and the mixture administered subcutaneously to guinea pigs that had been sensitized to maize products, and it was found that the animals suffered no ill effects as a result of the injections, and it was, therefore, felt that antitoxic bodies were evidently contained in the serum used.

Following the foregoing experiments these investigators treated three patients in the fall of 1913 with injections of gradually increasing strengths of extracts of bad maize with what appeared to be excellent results, and they have just reported a continuation of the work along these lines which was done in 1914, and make mention of the fact that the well known pellagrologist Camurri has informed them by letter that he has also seen striking effects from the treatment.

Still more recently Finato and F. Novello have reported the results of the use of the extract in 14 cases, and have expressed themselves as having a high opinion of the efficacy of the treat-