

NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELIZABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL



DEATH FROM THIRST.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* says: "Dr. W. J. Mc Gee, director of the St. Louis Public Museum, formerly chief of anthropology of the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition, discussed this subject before the St. Louis Medical Society. He has recently made observations in the arid regions of Arizona, and he reported the case of a Mexican who was lost in the desert without drink for eight days. He traveled 108 miles in a stuporous condition and, half dead, finally stumbled into Dr. McGee's camp, where he was revived after great difficulty. Dr. McGee called attention to thirst as a disease, treating of physiologic thirst, thirst beyond physiologic limits, and thirst *in extremis*. The last might be called living death; death of the tissues takes place from below upward, owing to the impoverished state of the blood and to want of circulation. The victim's toes drop off and breaks in the skin do not bleed because of the non-fluid state of the blood."

IMPROVED CATHETER TO PREVENT CYSTITIS.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* quoting from a German contemporary says: "Gersuny ascribes to mechanical injury of the bladder-wall a certain proportion of the cases of cystitis that develop after repeated catheterization. In order to prevent this he uses a short curved glass catheter with a projecting shoulder, which prevents its entering beyond a safe distance. In 35 cases in which this catheter was used after operation, cystitis developed in only one instance, although slight urethritis was observed in 4 cases. The patient with cystitis had required catheterization thirteen times and the others four or five."

MASSAGE OF THE STOMACH IN FLATULENT DYSPEPSIA.—This procedure is commended in the *Lancet* by H. Stratham, who records the case of a man in whom the attacks of flatulency came on with-