4. He pays his money on the understanding that purging is unnecessary and is foreign to the "treatment"; he discovers—after payment—that various saline purgatives are recommended which the concern itself offers to furnish—for an additional cash consideration.

5. He buys the system under the belief that no "physical culture" exercises need be indulged in, only to find that a system of calisthenics and a "long brisk walk" morning and evening besides "breathing exercises" are actually part of the "treatment."

6. The purchaser is deceived into believing that the dried whey tablets furnished by the company have a definite value in bringing about the desired reduction; he is further cajoled into buying additional supplies of these utterly worthless products.

7. He may be further whiddled into buying a "To-Kalon Keapshape Corset" or a "Neal Reducing Belt."

Founded on deception, maintained by falsehood and perpetuated by fraud the Dr. Turner Obesity Cure belongs in the same category as the Marjorie Hamilton "cure." In fact, there is but little difference between the two. From the standpoint of the medical profession, the Turner concern is the more contemptible because of the attempt to use the title M.D. as a means of lending an air of respectability to an altogether disreputable business. From the standpoint of the public there is nothing to choose between them; they are both humbugs and in either case the public's money is obtained under false and fraudulent pretenses.

Correspondence

"Louder, Please."

The recent Atlantic City meeting of the American Medical Association again indicates that the prevailing ailment among the members who read papers is vocal insufficiency, if I may be permitted to make this addition to our medical nomenclature. A full-grown man ought to be able, with a little practice, to make himself heard 100 feet away. If he were speaking to one man across a large hall he would have no difficulty in making that man understand. It is distressing to listen to a paper read in so low a voice that only part of it can be heard, and it is unpardonable for a man to inflict his paper on a society unless he is willing to read it in a clear, strong voice. This is not much to ask and it is essential. Otherwise, his paper should be read by title only, leaving the printer to do the rest.

C. J. DOUGLAS, M.D., Dorchester, Mass.

Who First Sutured the Human Heart?

To the Editor:—In the "Cyclopedia of American Medical Biography" by Dr. Howard A. Kelly (vol. 1, p. 31) occurs the following: "The successful operation for an incised wound of the heart reported by Marks (*Med. Fortnightly*, 1893, vi) is probably the first operation ever reported for suture of a heart wound. G. T. Vaughan gives priority to Farina of Rome, 1890, (*THE JOURNAL A. M. A.*, Feb. 6, 1909, p. 429). . . . Vaughan's table showed up to 1901, 150 operations."

There are several errors in this statement. In the first place, Dr. Marks' article was published in the *Medical Fortnightly*, 1893, volume iii, instead of volume vi. In the second place, my table of suture of wounds of the heart showed 150 operations up to 1908 instead of 1901. In the third place, the statement that Dr. Marks' case was "probably the first operation ever reported for suture of a heart wound is not sustained by the references given. I have carefully read Dr. Marks' article in the *Medical Fortnightly*, in which he reports two cases of stab wound of the heart treated by him. There is not one word about suturing the heart or even of operating on the heart—the wounds in the chest having been simply packed with gauze. I yield to none in my feeling of pride in the achievements of American surgeons, but I believe that credit should go where it belongs and in this case, so far as I have

been able to ascertain, it belongs to Guido Farina of Rome. His original article, "Sutura del Ventricolo Destro," may be found in the *Bollettino della reale Accademia Medica di Roma*, 1896-7, xxiii, 248.

GEORGE TULLY VAUGHAN, Washington, D. C.

Caffein as a Cause of Goiter

To the Editor:—The remarkable frequency of goiter in youths applying for examination, preliminary to enlistment, inaugurated a series of questions, one of which—"What beverages do you drink?"—in every instance brought out the answer, "Coca-Cola." The stimulating action of caffeine may or may not be the cause of this condition; it is, nevertheless, suspicious. In examining thousands of men, aged from 17 to 28, this defect has caused a large number of rejections, and I am more pronouncedly of the opinion that the suspicion formed some years ago—i. e., caffeine stimulation—is well founded. In questioning these men, I do not suggest; I simply prod until I get the information, and it has never been lacking.

L. L. VON WEDEKIND, M.D., U. S. Navy, Chicago.

President Jacobi's Address

To the Editor:—President Jacobi's speech in *THE JOURNAL*, June 8, is a masterpiece of eloquence and good common sense, and in my judgment should be put into pamphlet form and distributed among the medical profession. It bears reading several times and is well worth the year's subscription price.

LOUIS H. FREEDMAN, M.D., Crowell, Texas.

[COMMENT.—We shall be glad to send a reprint of President Jacobi's address to any one who will send a stamped directed envelope.—EDITOR.]

Queries and Minor Notes

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS will not be noticed. Every letter must contain the writer's name and address, but these will be omitted, on request.

ABDOMINAL TUBERCULOSIS AND CERVICAL ADENITIS

To the Editor:—A child of 18 months developed a non-febrile cervical adenitis which was not tender. Under iodine externally and an alterative internally this disappeared in five days. In two weeks attention was called to an edema of the left leg, and examination showed a large tumor in the lower part of the abdomen and enlargement of the kidneys. The child died in six weeks and post-mortem examination showed tuberculosis of the retroperitoneal glands and a tumor mass the size of a doubled fist, in which were embedded the ureters, causing hydronephrosis of both kidneys. Is it possible that this condition of the peritoneal glands could have been caused within two weeks by the treatment used in the cervical adenitis?

J. L. T.

ANSWER.—In all probability, the tuberculosis of the abdomen which produced the enlargement of the kidneys and edema of the leg had existed for more than two weeks. It is not possible to say whether the infection was transmitted to the abdomen from the cervical gland. It is possible that by massage of such glands some bacilli might have been forced into the circulation, but, in our opinion, it is not reasonable to attribute the infection of the retroperitoneal glands to the treatment.

THE PAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS

To the Editor:—In *THE JOURNAL*, June 1, 1912, p. 1608, an announcement appears of the Sixth Pan-American Medical Congress, to be held at Lima, Peru, August, 1913. The name and address of its secretary are omitted. Kindly supply this, as that will enable such members of the profession as desire to participate in the congress to enroll and obtain such information as they may require.

DR. ALFRED E. REGENSBURGER, San Francisco.

ANSWER.—The secretary of the International Executive Committee of the congress is Dr. Ramon Guiteras, 80 Madison Ave., New York City. Further particulars may be obtained from the editor of the local medical journal, the *Cronica Medica*, Dr. E. Bello, Apartado postal 629, Lima, Peru.