The Chairman. Did you understand, Mr. Secretary, that his action in reporting there was a personal one, or that he was acting for the committee?

Secretary Wilson. If he belonged to the Department of Agriculture, he should have gotten consent from the Department, did not.

The Chairman. You mean he should have gotten consent before he accepted the chairmanship of that board?

Secretary Wilson. Surely.

The Chairman. He should?

Secretary Wilson. He should have done so.

The Chairman. Was Dr. Robinson there at the expense of the Department of Agriculture?

Secretary Wilson. No; he was not. And I do not think it belonged to the Department of Agriculture at that time. I think it belonged to the Medical Department.

The Chairman. The only opposition he could show was being opposed to the decisions of the referee board in the matter of benzoate of soda. That is it, is it not?

The Chairman. Precisely. That was the dividing line.

The Chairman. You also stated that he appeared in the federal court in Indianapolis in opposition to the policies of the Department of Agriculture. Please explain in that regard.

Secretary Wilson. If he belonged to the Department of Agriculture, he should have consulted me before going any- 

The Chairman. Is it not true that Dr. Robinson is the only employee of the Department of Agriculture who appeared in the federal court in Indianapolis in opposition to the policies of that Department?

Secretary Wilson. That I do not know.

The Chairman. If any other employee who attended there for the State of Indiana was called to your attention as attending that case?

Secretary Wilson. I have no recollection.

The Chairman. Is it not also true that at least four of the employees of the Department of Agriculture did attend at the federal court in Indianapolis and testified in behalf of the state in that suit?

Secretary Wilson. It has come to my attention that we paid the expenses of one, and I have heard incidentally that there were two others there. I never heard of the fourth.

The Chairman. I am making that statement of you upon the statement of the attorney, Mr. Baldwin. Up to that time I only knew of three who were members of the Remsen Board. Kentucky.

Secretary Wilson. I would not happen to know of anybody that would go there from Kentucky, but I do not think that is very important.

The Chairman. The records of your department would show that those employees of your Department of Agriculture who are living in Indianapolis are still within the employ of the Government, will they not?

Secretary Wilson. I think so, if they are.

The Chairman. And these records will also show that Dr. Robinson was discharged?

Secretary Wilson. Oh, the records will show that, surely.

Correspondence

Informating the "Typhoid-Carrier"

To the Editor:—It has been found that 3 to 5 per cent. of the patients recovering from typhoid are "carriers," that is, have typhoid bacilli in their stools even after they are well enough to be up and about. These unfortunate individuals are a danger to those about them and constitute one of the most difficult problems in preventive medicine. Although physicians are well aware of these facts, very little is done to minimize this source of infection. Hospital patients and private patients are discharged from observation and which are not rid of typhoid bacilli. This laissez-faire attitude in examinations, and to the realization that we are in 1 believe, that some of the carriers are still in the hospital, in ignorance of the their cases, and relatives. Although it is true that we cannot rid them of typhoid bacilli, there would be a decided advantage in most cases if the individuals were aware of their infectious state. As things are now, they go home and take no precautions, many of the women cooking the meals or at least handling the food as usual. They do not know that they should observe special cleanliness in the various sanitary matters which it is unnecessary to detail.

I feel that this state of affairs constitutes a very weak link in the chain of the prophylaxis of typhoid. It seems to me that it would not involve too great labor to have a bacteriologic examination made of the stools before each typhoid patient is discharged from the hospital. It would not be possible to detain the patient until a negative culture could be obtained, as we do in the case of diphtheria; however, we could consult the "committee of care" (as well) of his condition, and give him written instructions as to the precautions which he should observe. We might even arrange for subsequent stool examinations by the hospital or by the board of health, so as to acquaint the patient when he is finally rid of the bacilli.

This subject was recently brought home to me with emphasis when, following the discharge from the hospital of two children who had been suffering from typhoid, a third case immediately developed in the home.

ALFRED F. HESS, New York City.

The Home for Widows and Orphans of Physicians

To the Editor:—In a communication by me to THE JOURNAL OF Aug. 28, 1909, page 735, regarding the "Fund for Relief of Widows and Orphans," founded by the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland in 1903, I stated that it was our hope eventually to found here also a home where the widows and children needing it could be cared for, the children educated and helped to get a start in the world and even helpless or superannuated physicians could find a shelter. It was our purpose and desire that this fund, like the fund, should be under the direction and control of the faculty, which is the present state medical society. Unfortunately it was found that the charter of the society gave no authorization for the institution and the advice of lawyers who were consulted was against its assumption.

Believing thoroughly in the urgent need of a home and compelled to act independently, we set to work to raise funds.

The result of our efforts so far—a little over a year—is a substantial fund in the bank and we are now on the lookout for a suitable property within the city with a view to purchase. We propose to start within the city, where it will be convenient to our workers and in a modest fashion work up.

And now we appeal to the members of the medical profession throughout the United States for their aid. By its charter the home is to be one for the "widows and orphans of physicians" and this in no limited sense. The institution is national in scope and those for whom it is designed will be welcomed whether they come from the north or the south, east or the west. Those worthy will be admitted without unnecessary delay and without admission fee. We hope to see it grow rapidly and to be able to accommodate all who need assistance. We ask contributions of all whose hearts can be touched by pity or suffering. We ask for the widows and orphans of our brethren. Who knows but that our own widows and orphans may some day need this very help?

EUGENE P. CONNELL, M.D., Treasurer.

257 W. Hoffman Street, Baltimore.

Factors in Death-Rate.—Hoffman, in his paper on the "General Death-Rate of Large American Cities," enumerates the following factors as affecting the rate: size of city, density of population, latitude, longitude, elevation, rate of annual increase, proportion of males, of foreign-born, of foreign parentage, of colored, of illiterate, of male wage-earners, of ages, the mean annual maximum and minimum temperature, and mean annual relative humidity; so that the general death-rate, when analyzed, is found to be based on a very complex set of props, and the influence of the most important must be measured before accepting it as an index of mortality.