were elected: president, T. D. Crothers, Hartford; secretary, W. G. Murphy, East Hartford; treasurer, John O'Flaherty, Hartford.

THE NEW Michigan State medical bill has passed both houses of the legislature, and awaits the governor's signature. "Christian Scientists" are excluded from the provisions of the measure and will be at liberty to continue their so-called "healing," so far as the bill is concerned, should it become a law.

PROF. WM. K. BROOKS, Baltimore, the author of "The Foundations of Zoology," with Messrs. G. A. Drew, E. W. Berger and Caswell Graves, all of the biologic department of Johns Hopkins, will spend the summer at the laboratory of the U. S. Fish Commission, Beaufort, S. C., working especially in marine biology.

A PHYSICIAN of Pennsylvania has asked for a mandamus against the State medical council to show cause why he should not be permitted to practice, since he had complied with the law in another State, regarding this question. The deputy attorney reserved his opinion as to whether the mandamus would be granted.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT of New York has signed the bill recently passed by the legislature allowing cities of the first class to establish and maintain, subject to the approval of the State board of health, hospitals for the systematic treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis; also the bill providing for compensation to owners of cattle destroyed by order of the department of health of New York City.

IN EXAMINING the throat of a woman who had applied for laryngologic treatment, according to *Archiv. f. Laryng.*, E. Berthold noticed that the vocal chords had the appearance found only in the male adult. Further investigations disclosed that the individual was a hermaphrodite, who eight years later returned for a certificate to allow the change of sex, having fallen in love with a woman.

IT IS stated that four persons living at Buffalo, N. Y., have been indicted under the United States law for not permitting medical attendance on a child of one of the defendants who had been treated by "Christian Scientists," and who subsequently died of pneumonia. Under the indictment the father of the child becomes one of the defendants. The parties were released under bail of \$2500.

THE STATE Agricultural department of New York has commenced an active crusade against dealers found with "bob" veal in their possession, and a large number of carcasses have been seized and destroyed along the line of the railways between Utica and New York city. Under the recently amended law the penalties (which are fixed at from \$25 to \$100 for each offense) can be sued for, and almost fifty cases have been sent to the attorney-general for prosecution.

THE STATE board of charities has refused the application of Mrs. Rose Hawthorne Lathrop for articles of incorporation for the Free Home for Incurable Cancer, which she has been conducting for some time in the lower part of the borough of Manhattan, N. Y. The reasons are that the institution is not needed in the locality where it is situated, and that the patients for whom it is designed can be accommodated and cared for better in the department of charities' hospitals.

DR. FLOYD W. McRAE has sufficiently recovered from the operation for appendicitis, referred to last week, to be able to give the oration in Surgery next Wednesday. He is still in New York City.

DELEGATES to the International Conference for the Prevention of Syphilis and Venereal Diseases, to be held at Brussels Sept. 4, 1899, have been named as follows: Prof. I. N. Bloom of Kentucky, chairman; Profs. Jas. C. White of Massachusetts, J. Wm. White of Pennsylvania, Geo. Chismore of California, John P. Bryson and W. A. Hardeaway of Missouri, J. Frank Lydston and James Nevins Hyde of Chicago, L. Duncan Bulkley, Sigmond Lustgarten and R. W. Taylor of New York.

THE FOLLOWING promotions have been made in the teaching faculty of the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. James Tyson has been elected professor of practice of medicine, and will give both the didactic lectures and clinic instruction; the chair of clinic professor of medicine has been bestowed on Drs. J. H. Musser and Alfred Stengel. There will be four assistant professors of medicine, as follows: Drs. Judson Daland, M. Howard Fussell, John K. Mitchell and Frederick A. Packard.

THE Paris daily press has been commenting with much glee on the discovery that a person who had been attending the courses at the Lariboisière Hospital, following the visits of the prominent medical attendants, even assisting occasionally at operations, is not a diplomate physician at all, but an oil merchant. Owing to his connection with the Lariboisière he had acquired quite a little practice outside, in eye and ear troubles and obstetrics, his "specialties."

THE annual session of the American Surgical Association opened in Chicago May 31. Dr. De Laskie Miller of Chicago delivered the address of welcome, and Dr. W. W. Keen of Philadelphia, the address on "The Technic of Laryngotomy." The discussion of the "Surgery of the Spanish War," was by Drs. Senn of Chicago, N. M. Ferebee, U. S. N., G. R. Fowler of Brooklyn, and C. B. Nancrede of Ann Arbor. The afternoon of June 1 was devoted to a clinic held in the amphitheater of Rush Medical College, with a banquet in the evening at the Chicago Athletic Club. A fuller report will be given next week.

Correspondence.

Army Medical Service.

WAR DEPARTMENT: SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 22, 1899.

To the Editor:—Your editorial note relating to "The Army Medical Service" (See JOURNAL, May 20, p 1123) indicates that a misapprehension exists with reference to the appointment of medical officers in the army, and I consider it my duty to correct this at the earliest possible moment.

Appointments in the regular army are made entirely on the recommendation of army medical boards convened for the purpose of examining the candidates who present themselves, and neither political nor personal influence has any weight in these appointments.

Regimental surgeons of volunteer regiments under existing laws are appointed by governors of States, and neither the secretary of war nor the surgeon-general of the army has anything to do with these appointments.

Division and brigade surgeons of volunteers, and the medical officers of the so-called immune regiments, have been appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the surgeon-general of the army.

Acting assistant surgeons have been appointed and discharged by the surgeon-general of the army or by the chief surgeons of military departments and armies in the field. These appointments are of a temporary nature, and during the first months of the war the urgency for medical assistance was so great that it was not practicable to convene medical examining boards for the selection of "contract surgeons."

It is a mistake to suppose that the secretary of war has attempted to control the appointment of commissioned medical officers or of acting assistant-surgeons. In a few instances he has suggested the appointment of physicians personally known to him, and naturally his wishes have had due consideration. In making recommendations for presidential appointments or in appointing acting assisting surgeons, I have not been influenced by political reasons, but a large number of those seeking appointment filed with their applications letters from members of Congress and other influential persons. These letters have been considered simply as testimonials as to character and professional standing, and it has been my aim in all cases to obtain satisfactory professional endorsement for candidates not personally known to me. No doubt mistakes have been made, but I believe that a large majority of those appointed have proved themselves to be competent physicians and many have shown a special aptitude for the military service.

Very respectfully, GEO. M. STERNBERG,
Surgeon-General, U. S. A.

Upper Panes Replaced With Double Panes.

ELLCOTT CITY, MD., May 18, 1899.

To the Editor:—I note in the JOURNAL of April 29, under "Public Health," that a prize has been awarded Dr. Caslaing "by the French Academy of Science, for his suggestion that two upper panes in each window be replaced with double panes a short distance apart, the outer pane leaving a narrow opening at the bottom, as it does not reach quite to the sash below, and the inner pane leaving a similar opening at the top, as it does not reach quite up to the top of the sash."

This seems a curious thing, when we read in Parkes' "Hygiene" (Edition 1883, Wood's Library, p. 174, Vol. i), in speaking of natural ventilation and its practical application: "Various plans have been proposed by different persons. The panes of glass may be made double, spaces being left at the bottom of the outside pane and the top of the inner one, so that the wind is obliged to pass up between the two panes before it enters the room."

Is there nothing new under the sun? And under the circumstances does not this prize belong to the original suggestor? Our French colleague must have thought of this independently, for no one would accuse him of plagiarism, but where, oh where, was the board of censors of the Academy that they did not know something taught in our medical schools for the past sixteen years?

Very truly yours,
S. J. FORT, M.D.

Clinic Gynecology in Paris and America.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, May 16, 1899.

To the Editor:—It seems strange that in this day when the efficiency of medical study and medical practice is accomplished chiefly by specialization, the University of Paris should not long since have established a chair of clinic gynecology. It would seem, however, from recent proceedings of the municipal council of Paris (*Le Progrès Médicale*) that this long delayed step is at last an accomplished fact. An address to that august and conservative body by M. André Lefevre,

recounted the fact that such a chair exists in the faculties at Besançon, Bordeaux, Dijon, Grenoble, Montpellier, Nancy, Nantes, Poitiers, Rennes, Limoges and Rouen; yet at the great metropolis this department is not organized. M. Lefevre reviewed at length the development and present status of the chair in Germany and wound up by saying that they teach clinic gynecology, "not only in all the universities of Europe and the United States but also at Melbourne, Toms, Bombay, Madras, Cordova (Argentine Republic), Bahia, Lima and Tokio." After slight opposition the municipal council voted a "subvention" for a chair of clinic gynecology to be opened November 1, consisting of 12,000 francs for the professor, 1200 for the chief of clinic, 2200 for the chief of the laboratory.

It is highly gratifying to feel that Paris by this step has increased the efficiency and the attractiveness of medical teaching in that great capital. It is gratifying also to observe that in taking this step, the principle of substantial reward for labor in a clinic department is recognized. While the United States anticipated Paris by many years in the establishment of this chair in the various universities and medical schools of the country, yet, almost without exception, the professors receive no direct compensation for their services. It is assumed that their reward will come in the nature of increased private patronage. The natural tendency of such a policy must be to minimize interest in and devotion to the strictly professional work and to stimulate attention to that labor which will yield the bread of life. The sooner America ceases to offer these professorships as gratuitous advertising media, and adopts the tardy example of Paris, the better for America.

CHARLES A. L. REED, M.D.

Hydrophobia in California.

PASADENA, CAL., May 22, 1899.

To the Editor:—I wish to report the occurrence of the first truly authenticated case of hydrophobia in Southern California. The onset, course of the disease, and death were typical, and subdural injections of cerebrospinal fluid of the patient into rabbits were followed by death of one of the three animals experimented on (after a period of twelve days) in convulsions followed by paralysis. As the whole case was a characteristic one (and it was my privilege to see a great many cases with Pasteur, in Paris, in the spring of 1893), the details are hardly worth publishing; but as Southern California has so far been considered exempt from this disease, the occurrence of this first authenticated case, I believe, merits chronicling in the interest of medical statistics and of public sanitation. Any details of the case, of postmortem finding, etc., will be gladly forthcoming, should you desire them.

Respectfully yours,
ALFRED C. CROFTAN, M.D.

Fluid Vaccin Virus.

McCook, NEB., May 17, 1899.

To the Editor:—At a meeting of the Nebraska State Medical Society, held May 9, I called attention to a new method of handling fluid vaccin virus. The method is simple, quick and efficacious, and will at once appeal to readers of the JOURNAL: Break off both ends of the capillary tube of virus and blow the contents into a sterilized spoon or other small receptacle. The one or two drops which go to make up the contents of the tube are then drawn into a sterile hypodermic needle, and the needle pushed just under the outer skin, where pressure on the piston of the hypodermic deposits the drop of serum.

No dressing is necessary, for the skin furnishes a protection for the virus, and you will find that nearly all, if not all, of your cases thus inoculated will "take." The method takes less time and is more cleanly, sure and scientific than any of which I have knowledge. Sincerely yours,

W. V. GAGE, M.D.