

of real estate, it is scarcely believed that the testator's wishes can be fully carried out, or that as much will be realized as he intended.

— By the will of Judge Asa Packer, it is reported that Jefferson College will receive a bequest of five thousand dollars.

CHICAGO.

— The State Board of Health, now in session in this city, has just promulgated its decision in the case of the Hahnemann Medical College, charged by some of its alumni with conferring diplomas improperly. The board had declared two years ago that it would not recognize the diplomas of colleges which conferred degrees without actual attendance upon two courses of lectures, said courses to be at least six months apart. It was proven that in at least two instances the offending college had violated this rule, but there were, so it is said, extenuating circumstances, and as the faculty promised they would not do anything wrong again, and protested that they had not meant to be naughty at all, it was agreed simply to declare that the two bad diplomas would not be recognized if they were presented (which they have not been, nor would be), and to administer a very mild rebuke to the college for its lack of care in the conduct of its business.

ST. LOUIS.

— Dr. Walter Wyman, who for some three years has had charge of the marine hospital at St. Louis, has been ordered to Cincinnati, to take charge of the marine hospital at that place. The position which he vacates will be filled by Dr. H. W. Sawtelle, from Norfolk, Va.

— The Missouri State Dental Association convened June 17th at Sweet Springs, Mo. Dr. A. H. Fuller, of St. Louis, presided.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS.

IN-GROWN TOE NAIL.

MR. EDITOR, — A friend has called my attention to Dr. McCluer's letter in your JOURNAL of the 12th inst.

It is really amusing to note how great a stir a small matter may sometimes create. At first the suggestion was ignored as of little or no account; then, again, there was nothing new about it; now that it appears effective everybody claims it for himself, his friend, or some one else. Never mind, if, in the interest of patients, it be acted upon, — for there is satisfactory evidence that it is a good thing.

In point of fact, however, the operation was performed by me several years before the discovery of the anæsthetic power of ether; in the first instance to avoid repetition of evulsion in an aggravated case where that "barbarous practice" (Gross) had been attended with excruciating pain and followed by severe symptoms, without success. A plan to meet the case was then reasoned out, and, seeming philosophical, was resorted to, to remove the disease and enough of the adjacent healthy flesh to prevent, through the contraction of the cicatrix, its return. The scheme, wholly my own and untried so far as I know, promised well. The experiment, for such it then was, would require but an instant, — a great point in those days, — one stroke of the knife, and would be over almost before the patient had time to utter a single groan. It was tried, and succeeded.

The operation was repeated in other cases, from that time to this, with satisfaction to all concerned. As occasion offered the method was described to other practitioners and to

local societies, and was noticed in 1866 in the printed proceedings of one where it had been incidentally alluded to in connection with another matter. Possibly it was published before. I have a record of a case in 1851, where a second evulsion had previously proved unsuccessful. The paper published in January, 1873, was a hurried-up restatement to appease the JOURNAL.

There is perhaps no reason why my operation might not have been known in Holliston even before the ether discovery, as it was here, it being no secret; nor any, that I know of, why his may not have originated with Dr. McCluer in 1853-4, as again much later with Dr. I. M. Hamilton, of Monmouth, Ill. Both these gentlemen, however, were antedated by Mr. Stilwell. They did not publish until 1877, and, after all, without rationale, and seem to take to unnecessarily complicated and prolonged methods.

Originality or priority is of less consequence than usefulness, and not worth contention. More than one invention has had many claimants. There are scores of unsatisfactory operations for the disease in question. Let this operation have a fair trial, according to the principles advanced for it; that is the main thing.

Respectfully yours,

B. E. COTTING.

REPORTED MORTALITY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 14, 1879.

Cities.	Population estimated for July, 1879.	Reported Deaths in each.	Annual Death-Rate per 1000 during the Week.	Percentage of total Deaths from					
				The Principal "Zymotic" Diseases.	Diarrhæal Diseases.	Pneumonia.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	
New York.....	1,085,000	441	21.19	22.22	6.35	6.80	3.40	5.44	
Philadelphia.....	—	275	—	14.91	3.64	—	2.18	4.86	
Brooklyn.....	564,400	154	14.23	15.59	5.84	3.24	4.55	—	
Chicago.....	—	120	—	20.83	8.33	8.33	5.83	3.83	
St. Louis.....	—	151	—	25.16	19.87	2.65	1.32	—	
Baltimore.....	365,000	145	20.71	24.83	15.17	5.52	6.21	2.07	
Boston.....	380,000	117	16.94	16.24	1.71	2.56	9.40	.85	
New Orleans.....	—	105	—	16.19	11.43	3.81	—	—	
Cincinnati.....	—	95	—	29.47	13.68	3.16	2.11	10.53	
District of Columbia...	160,000	112	36.50	26.79	23.21	8.04	—	.89	
Cleveland.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pittsburgh.....	—	46	—	26.09	2.17	4.34	10.87	—	
Buffalo.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Milwaukee.....	—	33	—	21.21	3.03	6.06	6.06	3.03	
Providence.....	101,000	33	17.04	21.21	—	6.06	12.12	—	
New Haven.....	60,000	20	17.38	10.00	10.00	5.00	—	—	
Charleston.....	57,000	32	29.27	21.88	15.62	—	3.12	—	
Nashville.....	27,000	13	25.11	30.77	23.07	7.69	—	—	
Lowell.....	58,300	10	9.78	30.00	—	—	10.00	—	
Worcester.....	52,500	9	8.94	22.22	—	—	—	—	
Cambridge.....	51,400	15	15.21	26.67	—	6.67	6.67	13.33	
Fall River.....	48,500	22	23.65	27.27	—	—	—	22.73	
Lawrence.....	38,200	9	13.81	—	—	—	—	—	
Lynn.....	34,000	18	27.61	38.89	5.55	16.67	22.22	—	
Springfield.....	31,500	9	14.90	22.22	—	—	22.22	—	
New Bedford.....	27,000	8	15.45	—	—	—	—	—	
Salem.....	26,400	11	21.73	9.09	—	—	—	—	
Somerville.....	23,350	3	6.70	—	—	33.33	—	—	
Chelsea.....	20,800	6	15.04	—	—	16.67	—	—	
Taunton.....	20,200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Holyoke.....	18,200	6	17.19	33.33	—	—	16.67	—	
Gloucester.....	17,100	3	9.15	—	—	—	—	—	
Newton.....	17,100	7	21.34	28.57	—	—	28.57	—	
Haverhill.....	15,300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Newburyport.....	13,500	8	30.90	12.50	—	12.50	—	—	
Fitchburg.....	12,500	5	20.86	20.00	—	—	20.00	—	

Two thousand and forty-one deaths were reported: 426 from the principal "zymotic" diseases, 286 from consumption, 175 from diarrhæal diseases, 99 from pneumonia, 83 from diphtheria and croup, 63 from scarlet fever, 40 from bronchitis, 34 from typhoid fever, 25 from whooping-cough, 13 from measles, 11 from erysipelas, eight from cerebro-spinal meningitis, five from malarial fevers, five from small-pox, four from trismus nascentium, one from pleurisy. From bronchitis, 19 deaths were reported in New York, five in Brooklyn, three in Chicago and Pittsburgh, two in St. Louis, one in Boston, New Orleans, District of Colum-