THE PRINCIPLES OF VACCINE-THERAPY. [SEPT. 7, 1907. 733

passed for anyone to say what is the wattage that can be safely applied to the body, upon what authority does he rely? Then he goes on to assert that he would not like to be the victim of the experiment of having 400 watts applied to his body, which he actually did with no question at the close, but with a query in the body of his paper. In the experiments he is carrying out to determine the difference in the physiological effects of currents by varying the frequencies he will no doubt need the necessity for definite data, and let me assure him he can claim no priority in the idea.

I shall be pleased to demonstrate to Dr. Sloan that five amperes at 120 volts can be passed through, or "in and out" of, the body, and I can promise him that the "victims" of the experiment will be none the worse. I can give him this assurance with the greatest confidence because I have already done it with perfect safety. Further, I shall be pleased to place every means at his disposal to test the accuracy of the experiment and, if necessary, to supply him with the "victims." I have noted what Dr. Sloan has deemed to be the necessary qualification before one can become a member of his scientific investigatory committee. Whether or not I possess this qualification it is not for me to say. The object of my criticism will have been served if attention has been directed to the danger of drawing hasty conclusions from high-frequency currents experiments, based upon data which cannot bear the test of scientific investigation.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Cardiff, August 26th, 1907.

J. CUNNINGHAM BOWIE.

THE SEASONS AND MENTAL DISORDERS. [SEPT. 7, 1907. 735.

SIRS,—This question, the relations which the seasons bear to the incidence of mental disorders, one of considerable interest, was discussed in the medical journals some time ago. I regret that I am now unable to lay hands upon the papers which I had the pleasure of discussing at that time. The subject has been so often dealt with that its nature was such as to induce the desire to seek further definite facts for its elucidation. I proceeded, therefore, to analyse the admissions made into this house during the past 25 years, assigning to each month on which the admission took place.

The results now before me show a not greatly divergent incidence in the various months. I have given the figures in detail; it may suffice here to say that July stands some 25 per cent. above every other month, whilst the lowest figures are recorded at the beginning and end of the year, with some exceptions. The meaning of these figures is open to a variety of interpretation, and it would be of interest to ascertain how far they are borne out by the experience of other and larger communities. As far as my own statistics are concerned, one significant fact predominates—viz., that July, which is, or which ought to be, one of the hottest months of the year, has the highest average, whilst June comes within the next column of figures.

One may not unnaturally infer from this that the restlessness and sleeplessness often induced by high temperatures, to say nothing of the bodily exhaustion produced by extreme heat, are not without their influence as factors of the increase in question, and we have only to note the frequency of mental breakdown in tropical countries for confirmatory evidence.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

West Malling, Kent. August 24th, 1907.

JAMES ADAM.

IMITATION NAUHEIM BATHS. [SEPT. 7, 1907. 736.

SIRS.—So-called imitations of the Nauheim bath are now so generally employed that it may be worth while pointing out what a difference there is between the cutaneous reaction excited by the effervescing waters of Nauheim and that yielded by water through which carbonic acid gas is merely passed or in which it is generated.

At Nauheim, and to a less extent in baths in which the gas is generated by chemical interaction, the skin becomes covered with minute globules of the gas and on emerging thenceforth the subject rivals in hue the "cardinal of the seas." On this cutaneous reaction depends in part the influence of the Nauheim baths on the circulation, and as it is practically absent when compressed carbonic gas is merely passed through the water of the bath the value of this popular means of aeration must be very small. The difference is well exemplified in the ordinary gazogene. If the water be withdrawn soon after filling, or even within the first few hours after charging, it gives off little gas and tastes "flat," showing that a certain lapse of time is necessary for the gas to become dissolved. Further experiment will show that passing carbonic acid through water leaves the latter virtually unchanged. Whatever therapeutic value the Nauheim bath possesses in virtue of its gaseous constituent is due to the latter being in a state of aqueous solution, ready to be set free when the solution comes into contact with the skin.

While it may be contended that the effects of the Nauheim treatment are only in a minor degree dependent on the action of the gas, this action is lacking when the gas is merely passed through the water. To be operative the gas would require to be left in contact with the water in a cylinder under pressure for at least 12 hours before being employed.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

AIX-LES-BAINS (Savoye).

ALFRED S. GUBB, M.D. Paris.

BUTTERMILK IN ENTERIC DISEASE. [SEPT. 7, 1907. 737.

SIRS.—The difficulty often experienced by the practitioner in finding any food which can be retained by infants and young children suffering from acute or chronic febrile diarrhoea with vomiting, especially in warm climates, induced me to try the following preparation which has a great reputation in the Argentine Republic in cases of this kind and which I cannot find mentioned in any of the books on "Diseases of Children." It is a modification of the formula which I first attempted to give in this journal of summer diarrhoea at home. It is sterilised buttermilk, sweetened, and is prepared as follows: Fresh buttermilk is slowly boiled in an earthenware vessel for half an hour—one or two dessertspoonfuls of powdered white sugar are added. It must be continually stirred with