Royal Commission on Tuberculosis.—This committee has accepted two farms in Essex offered for experimental purposes.

Smallpox in London.—The smallpox epidemic is steadily increasing. On December 28 there were 637 cases under treatment.

Dr. Samuel Smiles, of London, author of the "Self Help" series, celebrated his 90th birthday on December 23. His last book, "A Publisher and His Friends," netted him \$10,000, which he divided among his children as a Christmas gift.

Certificate of Physical and Mental Capacity in Marriage.—The Bohemian Medical Society has had introduced into the Austro-Hungarian Reichstag a bill to regulate marriage by making a certificate of physical and mental capacity obligatory for candidates for matrimony.

Italian in Medical Congress.—Baccelli has declined an invitation to address the coming International Medical Congress at Madrid, on the ground that Italian is not recognized as one of the official languages. He appeals to his compatriots to hold aloof also from the Congress on this account.

Death of Professor Loehlein.—Germany has lost one of her most prominent and public-spirited gynecologists in Hermann Löhlein of Giessen. Science owes to him the introduction and scientific foundation of pelvic measurements, and innumerable contributions to the literature. He has been publishing regularly since 1890 some of his lectures, etc., under the title "Questions of the Day in Gynecology."

The Centennial of the "Internat" in France.—The internes of Paris have completed their arrangements for the celebration of the centennial of the founding of the system of internes in hospitals. It will occur during several days in the first week of April and will include a ceremonial assembly, banquet and dedication of the monument in the inner court of the Hotel Dieu to the memory of the internes who died victims of their professional devotion, of which many touching stories are told.

Dr. A. Campbell Clark, a leading British alienist, died, November 28, from influenza with visceral complications. He was well known from his contributions to psychiatric literature and especially as an expert on asylum management and construction. He was a pioneer in his country in the movement for the scientific training of attendants on the insane and was one of the authors of a practical treatise on the subject. His best-known work is "A Clinical Manual of Mental Diseases" published in 1897. His professional work was almost entirely in asylums, he having been connected with them since his graduation from the University of Edinburgh in 1886.

Behring Proclaims the Successful Immunization of Cattle Against Tuberculosis.—In his recent address at the Stockholm Academy of Sciences as the recipient of one of the Nobel prizes, Behring announced the success of his efforts to immunize cattle against tuberculosis. His method is similar to Pasteur's immunization of sheep against anthrax, that is, the injection of attenuated tubercle bacilli from man. The next step is to determine the minimal effective amount and reduce the expenses of this protective measure. He stated that he intends to devote the Nobel prize to this end. He announced that he considers himself justified in asserting even now, that the immunization of cattle against tuberculosis is an established fact.

Correspondence.

Hydrophobia Rabies and Dr. Dulles.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17, 1901.

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL OF Dec. 7, 1901, I note the following item: "*Rabies.*—Salmon's paper is a discussion and convincing analysis of the statistics, combating the statements of Dulles and others who argue that hydrophobia does not exist." Although I might despair of correcting the misapprehensions of persons who could attribute to me such an absurdity after reading any of my papers on the subject of rabies or hydrophobia, I will state, for the information of those who have not seen any of these papers and who might be excused for misunderstanding me, that I have never denied the existence of hydrophobia. I have repeatedly asserted in public and in print the position I have for years held, namely

that the word "hydrophobia" should, for the present, be used as we use the word "convulsions," to describe a condition but without prejudice as to its cause. I published nearly eighteen years ago a paper in which I gave an account of the occurrence of this condition in more than thirty diseases, and I think it reasonable to ask that the profession would make itself acquainted with the facts of this nature which are within its reach before giving itself up to a theory, the adoption of which is about as bad, in my opinion, as giving oneself up to an exclusive dogma in practice, in that it fills its votaries with an unwarranted content with their present attainments and shuts them off from those open-minded and logical methods of investigation which alone can furnish the proper ground for a just appreciation of the work of others.

My idea is that we must first eliminate from our equation the large number of cases presenting the clinical picture of hydrophobia and afterwards study in a properly critical way what is left, and then we may find a definition of the word that will stand. At present the subject is obscured by much that is irrelevant, and certain disputants do not seem (*me jndice*) to appreciate this sufficiently.

With due deference to those who regard my views as unsound, after twenty years of striving to learn the truth I am of the conviction that clinical hydrophobia in man and the disease in animals called rabies and judged by its inoculability in the un-natural way taught by Pasteur are not the same specifically. Of the former there are many causes besides the bites of animals suffering with rabies.

To the scientific arguments in Salmon's valuable and forceful paper I am now preparing a reply; for I think it contains some statements that would be better for decision of the premises on which they are founded. C. W. DULLES, M.D.

Car Sanitation.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 17, 1901.

To the Editor:—The dispatches announce that a new palace car company with a capital of \$5,000,000 has been organized in New York. This company will, perforce, build new cars, and it seems to me now is the time for those members of the medical profession who believe in helping their fellowmen to emphatically demand proper ventilation, without draughts. Surely such a thing is possible. It is to lack of ventilation, to which must be attributed the coughs, catarrhs, colds and cases of pneumonia and grip which so frequently are acquired on sleeping cars. White blankets should also be furnished, so when they are soiled and dirty, the passenger, who is paying large dividend producing prices, will know it. The traveling public is very particular in regard to having white, clean sheets and pillow cases, but is singularly silent about the colored blankets which so frequently emit musty and bodily odors.

Then would it not also be a convenience and a distinct advanced step in car sanitation to adopt Dr. Fulton's suggestion and have special sinks in the toilet rooms over which the ablutions of the mouth could be performed? At present, the washings of the mouth and teeth and the voidance of oral excrement, during the process, are discharged into the wash basins. It would be a good thing also to do away with carpets and have rugs on rubber tiled floors. Rubber tiling is as beautiful as vitrified tile; it is impervious, furnishes a sure footing and will withstand the motion of the cars. Rugs could be taken out at any terminal and others put in which had been dusted, steamed and sterilized. What an improvement this would be over the dirt-stiffened, spit-soaked carpets now so much in evidence! There seems to be no substitute for plush. Leather is too cold and slippery, and cane is too hard, cold and also slippery. The best way to handle this matter would be to have the backs and bottoms of the seats removable; then they could be taken out, dusted with the air blast, and sterilized. How comfortable it would be to know that the plush of your sleeping-car section was even occasionally thoroughly dusted and sterilized. J. N. HURTY, M.D.

Secretary Indiana State Board of Health.