water. I suspect, however, that regular boiling and cleansing of the porcelain cylinder and its attachments would be a useful proceeding in the case of a filter daily employed in the purification of Chicago water.

Some Remarks on Alleged Degeneracy.

ORAN, SCOTT CO., MO., July 27, 1895.

To the Editor:—This word does not apply to the profession at large (or as a whole). Doubtless there are many physicians who have lost their standing and good name and have ceased to study and improve, but the profession, as a whole, is on gaining ground. Doctors are wiser than ever before. There are more great men in our ranks to-day than ever before, and there are men who know more of medicine than was ever known to physicians of the past. Some of our wisest men undertake to write after their mental powers have begun to weaken, and in this sense may be called "decaydents." Others through sickness or disease may have lost their balance—but to say the profession is losing ground, and that our predecessors were a long way ahead of us is a mistake.

Many of us follow strange gods, but as a whole we are all right. There are many cranks among us on many different subjects, but this is not new; it was always so. Our ability to see ourselves as we are, shows strength instead of degeneracy. Our ability to correct past errors shows mental growth. Our greater control over disease and our ability to cure many maladies that were considered incurable by our fathers also shows progress. Oh, yes; we are all right. No need of the calamity howler in our midst. We are in line with our brethren in other avocations. We are keeping up with the times. Some of us may belittle ourselves by playing hog or dog, but the grand old army marches steadily along, conquering enemy after enemy.

Let not the editor of our JOURNAL join with those who would try to discourage us. Lend your aid in another direction. Never allow yourself to think we are degenerating. The apparent degeneracy is among those who have lost sight of duty and have made medicine a trade. These fellows are not so much degenerates as knaves—they never looked upon medicine as other than a species of merchandise. They, to some extent, have lowered our standing with the laity but have not taken, nor can they take, our lofty and well-earned position from us, and as Dr. Pusey says: "Medicine is not the poor relation of any scientific family."

I am glad the editor joins me in my theory of inebriety, and has a proper appreciation of the so-called *gold cures*. When I was spreading myself out, condemning this fad, only a few men said to me, "you are right;" but if the editor joins me, I shall not feel that I am so much in the minority.

Another source of joy to me is the fact that the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION is beginning to set down on the proprietary medicine man. I have had my say on this subject, but somehow editors are a little tenderfooted along this line. These parasites have a firm hold and are hard to unloose, but they will finally have to go. Truth, right and honest dealing must prevail. Secret methods of preparing medicines have no place with us, and the man who refuses to tell anything he knows that would benefit humanity can not last. His time is short. The patent nostrum vender can "hoodoo" the laity and swindle them out of their money, but no man nor set of men can continue swindling us without being exposed. We are "on to" the ready remedy maker's racket, and ere another decade shall pass, his name shall be "Dennis" or "Mud" in "box-car" letters. Very respectfully submitted,

W. D. HOWLE, M.D.

The Nu Sigma Nu Fraternity.

CHICAGO, Aug. 7, 1895.

To the Editor:—Any one who has read the scholarly and very entertaining address published in last week's issue of the JOURNAL, pages 177-180, delivered at Minneapolis, Minn.,

June 3, by Dr. John L. Irwin, President of the Grand Council of this honorable order, can not but sincerely applaud and at heart, at least, extol every sentiment uttered by that worthy gentleman.

For one, I have personally been much interested and delighted at reading his able address; and while I have not the pleasure of knowing Dr. Irwin, nor the honor of being a member of the Nu Sigma Nu, yet knowing something of this fraternity and the character of its members, I am free to state that I am a staunch advocate of its cardinal principles and teachings. It is my misfortune, perhaps, that my name has not, long ere this, been enrolled in this noble brotherhood of our profession. But after all, is it not our duty as honorable men and conscientious physicians, while we live, to follow the precepts of the order of Nu Sigma Nu, whether we are members of this honorable order or not? To sum up the ritual of this order—or rather to summarize Dr. Irwin's address—we should observe and live up to the Golden Rule; to practice charity without ostentation, educate ourselves in our profession, and observe toward each worthy professional colleague and toward all mankind the virtues of brotherly love, purity, honesty, justice, a laudable ambition, temperance and fidelity. As I understand it, these are substantially the teachings in the ritual of Nu Sigma Nu.

If we courteously observe these principles in our professional career, to my mind it does not seem that we have left much undone to "worry" about in the discharge of our duty toward our fellow man.

In Chicago, there are at least three Chapters of the Nu Sigma Nu Fraternity, and I am personally acquainted with nearly every "frater" of the order in this city, for all of whom I entertain high personal esteem. To these gentlemen, and to the members of the Nu Sigma Nu everywhere, I extend my sincere congratulations in having so able and efficient an executive of the Grand Council of their fraternity.

In conclusion, I thank the Great Physician of us all, as well as Dr. Irwin and the JOURNAL for publishing the address, and for being privileged to read it.

I remain sincerely,

LISTON H. MONTGOMERY.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Subsidence of Smallpox in Chicago.—There were only 2 deaths from smallpox in Chicago during the month of July last, as against 51 for the corresponding month of 1894. There were three cases remaining in hospital at midnight of the 6th inst., as against 117 on August 6 last year.

The Odors of Paris.—The prefect of police has given orders to have a certain number of his inspectors detailed to investigate the sources and causes of the disagreeable smells which incommode the Parisians, especially during the evening. As the number of establishments to be inspected is estimated at 8,000 the work is not yet done. However, from the evidence accumulated it seems probable that most of the noxious odors are caused by the manufacture of bone black.¹

Anti-Vaccinists Not Popular with Politicians.—Before the recent elections in England, the Bristol Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Society approached the various parliamentary candidates for Bristol and the adjoining divisions to ascertain their views on the vaccination question. It is reported that the "cold shoulder" which they received was so unanimous that they could fix on no candidate whom they could support and so abstained from any participation in the campaign and in the election.

¹ Le Progres Medical, No. 25, 1895.