hoped that—not further hampering legislation, as a few demagogues in our State Senate are attempting to impose—but some measure be adopted to protect physicians against such outrageous and libellous publications as the indiscretions of the legal officers exposed them to, in the very case which led to Judge McAdam's gratuitous farrago.

E. C. SPITZKA, M.D.

New York, February 26, 1891.

The Treatment of Carbuncle.

To the Editor:—Under the head of "Practical Notes" in a recent issue, we will all agree with Dr. A. P. Brown in his treatment of carbuncle, as far as crucial incision, use of cocaine, and packing with salicylic acid are concerned; but as for applying a *dirty ointment* to an *open wound* the modern surgeon will most decidedly disapprove of. A better procedure would be, first scrub with soap and Hg. Cl₂ 1-1,000, anæsthetize with cocaine, incise, curette, swab with tr. iodine, pack with iodoform gauze and apply a *moist* dressing of Hg. Cl₂ 1-5,000 or carbolic acid 1 per cent.; the latter will lessen pain. Remove dressing once in a day or so, and reapply tr. iodine if necessary and proceed as before.

RALPH CHANDLER, M.D.

135 Grand Ave., Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 27, 1891.

Shall The Journal be Removed to Washington?

THE ACTION OF THE MCLEAN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.
BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

To the Editor:—The following resolutions were unanimously adopted at the regular monthly meeting of the McLean County Medical Society, Thursday, March 5, 1891:

WHEREAS, There is an effort being made to remove THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION from Chicago to Washington, D. C.

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association is no sectional body, and when we consider Chicago from its geographical location, so readily accessible from all parts of our country, it being the greatest railroad centre in the world, its unsurpassed mail facilities, and destined to become the greatest medical centre of our country, also in wealth and population,

Resolved, That the Members of the McLean County Medical Society cannot see what advantage THE JOURNAL could possibly gain by its removal to Washington, but believe that such removal would be detrimental to THE JOURNAL and interests of the Association, and, be it further

Resolved, That the delegates elected to attend the next meeting of the Association do all in their power to oppose the removal of THE JOURNAL.

G. M. SMITH,
RHODA GALLOWAY,
F. J. PARKHURST, Committee.

To the Editor:—I have always felt the deepest interest in the creation of a journal that would represent the medical living age: around which would be rallied the most cultured minds and ardent efforts of the medical profession in this nation, and which should represent, besides, the most advanced thinkers and workers in all the world. When, therefore, the proposition was brought forward to create THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, I became its enthusiastic supporter and predicted, confidently, its future triumph as the representative of the medical interests throughout the country; and now my judgment is, that it has done well—reflecting great honor upon its editors, the Board of Trustees and Chicago, where it has been so well carried on. Nevertheless, I am bound to say that, in my belief, the managers have been so conservative, so determined to take no risks that involved a prospect of pecuniary embarrassment, that THE JOURNAL has been kept too much in the rear of the line of a contest for the due rank of medicine in communities and in the State. It has not, I think, been full enough of an aggressive

spirit; nor has it presented early, and in a compact form, the medical progress at home and abroad. The great reason for this, I am sure, has been that the managers have never felt willing, or, I might say, able—to select a highly competent editor, who should direct its way and be held responsible for a high character of work.

No one doubts the editorial capacity of Dr. N. S. Davis, or Dr. Hollister, but these gentlemen, both are large practitioners and could not have afforded to give their entire time to so exacting a situation. Hence THE JOURNAL, excellent and able as it is, has not attained to the exalted position of the leading journal of this country.

Now, this is what THE JOURNAL must become to be commensurate with the spirit and demands of our profession here. Thus far THE JOURNAL has stood only as the child of the Association—nursed by it—not self-dependent, but sustained by the funds remaining in the treasury after all other claims had been satisfied. But now a new state of things should be inaugurated. THE JOURNAL must lead and sustain the Association; it must earn the necessary sums to give to it the broadest character and most elevated rank in the promotion of scientific medicine, and its due social and political influence in the State. It must be able, by its great strength and activity, to fuse into one mass the intelligence, feeling and force of our vast faculty. Our obligations to society are continually increasing; the elevation of the social and political State requires, in a great degree, our coöperation.

The time has come for medicine to demand a place in the administration of the most important affairs. We must insist on the creation of a secretaryship of Public Health, as fully empowered with responsible duties as any other in the Presidential Cabinet.

I suppose that this proposition will be met by derisive jests and supercilious exclamations; nevertheless, the fact remains that there is no other profession that excels ours in positive efficiency to sustain public order, comfort and virtue. We have vast capacities for the direction of society and the promotion of human happiness. At this time I cannot dwell but in a general way upon this topic. Give us the power to direct all that which constitutes hygienic laws—the control of the mode of living of the people: e.g., to secure unadulterated food, pure water, ample light and air space in their dwellings, drainage, disposal of excrement, garbage and offal of every description, regulation of the hours of labor, the protection of childhood from severe toil, quarantine against pestilence, isolation of infectious diseases, the disinfection of certain localities, the overcrowding of school rooms, the abuse of the brain in teaching, the prevention of marriage in hereditary diseased types of constitution and in cases of near consanguinity, the care of the sick, and of the insane in special and general hospitals, and the regulation of those two giant evils of civilization, intemperance and prostitution.

At this moment the profession is manifesting, in a higher spirit than ever before, the purpose of suppressing contagious and infective diseases. This work was begun by Jenner, a century ago, and the awful scourge of small-pox has been nearly stamped out, wherever vaccination is compulsory. We have now assumed the stupendous task of suppressing all the terrible diseases that desolate the world. To accomplish all this we ask for the facilities of the government and the power of law. We must assist, also, in the formulation of appropriate laws and in their effective application.

I affirm that the medical profession is worthy of full recognition by the State in its Councils and by its resources to carry forward its beneficent work. Moreover, our profession lives closer to the heart of humanity than any other. We are bound to lavish our consolatory art upon all races and ranks of society, alike. We cannot abandon the lowest, most degraded, the poorest and most criminal of our fellow beings. We cannot shrink from impact with the pestilence, or the terrible ordeal of battle. It is not the bugle note of "forward," the advance