WHEREAS, There is now pending before the House of Representatives, an act for preventing the adulteration or misbranding of foods, or drugs, and for regulating traffic therein, and for other purposes; and as we believe that such an act is absolutely necessary for the public health; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Elbert County (Ga.) Medical Society, that our representatives in Congress from Georgia are hereby respectfully requested to vote for said bill.

Resolved further, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to each representative from Georgia in Congress.

Correspondence

A Further Note on the Antiseptic Properties of Sodium Aurate.

BOSTON, April 30, 1906.

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL, Jan. 27, 1906, I described a non-irritating antiseptic solution, the active constituent of which was believed to be sodium aurate. I showed that this solution possessed strong bactericidal power and that its action was not appreciably affected by the presence of albumin. At that time the antiseptic had been used clinically in only a limited number of cases, but had given most encouraging results. Since then, it has been used in a larger number of cases, and I find that while it is effective in case of acute catarrhal conjunctivitis, its action in severe cases of gonorrheal ophthalmia is disappointing. The cases of the latter affection on which it was first tried were probably of a mild type, and no doubt would have done equally well under the usual methods of treatment. In several of the later cases, even after frequent and prolonged use of the antiseptic, the secretion showed an abundance of gonococci, both in pus cells and in desquamated epithelial cells. It seemed evident, therefore, that the antiseptic either did not penetrate the tissues or that its action was inhibited by the tissue fluids. I find that the latter is the correct explanation. When the 1 per cent. solution is mixed with an equal quantity of human serum (hydrocele fluid) its bactericidal power is immediately and completely destroyed, although no visible reaction takes place. This fact no doubt also explains the non-irritating property of the antiseptic. The test was not previously made because similar tests with egg albumin seemed to render it unnecessary.

The unsatisfactory results attending the treatment of gonorrheal ophthalmia with protargol and argyrol are no doubt to be attributed to a similar cause. I have already shown that argyrol is rendered ineffective by egg albumin; in fact, is precipitated by it when the latter is added in sufficient amount. I have since found that protargol, although not precipitated by albumin, is likewise rendered ineffective by it. Hydrocele fluid does not precipitate solutions of either of these preparations, but nevertheless inhibits their action when added in sufficient amount to satisfy them.

It seems unlikely, therefore, that sodium aurate can be of much real value in the treatment of gonorrheal ophthalmia or gonorrheal urethritis. It is possible that it might reduce the frequency of corneal infection, but this would require a large series of cases to determine. There is no doubt, however, that it is effective in other forms of conjunctivitis, probably because it prevents constant reinfection of the tissues. Whether or not it is more effective than protargol for this purpose I am not yet convinced. It would seem to be a satisfactory antiseptic for the conjunctival sac to be used preliminary to operations, for which purpose I now employ it.

F. H. VERHOEFF.

Colloidal Silver.

NEW YORK, March 26, 1906.

To the Editor:—The article on "The Pharmacopeia and the Physician," in THE JOURNAL, March 24, 1906, contains the following surprising passage:

"Credé some years ago introduced a soluble form of metallic silver, for which certain manufacturers make the fabulous claim that it is an efficient disinfectant of blood and tissue. So long as septic diseases resist all treatment, it seems strange

that reputable manufacturers will make such obvious misstatements."

In the same issue (page 909) you print an abstract of a report by Prof. Solis-Cohen, recording striking results from colloidal silver in endocardites and associated sepsis, bronchopneumonia with pronounced meningeal symptoms, etc. That the claim of efficacy for colloidal silver is by no means "fabulous" is shown by a literature of more than 250 publications, with contributions by such men as Profs. Roswell Park, Warren Coleman, G. T. Harrison, D. L. Edsall, H. N. Vineberg, Edward Speidel, A. Jacobi, Frank Allport, C. S. Bacon, N. S. Davis, F. Forchheimer and many others. That colloidal silver produces profound physiologic effects is shown by such researches as those of Bamberger, Beyer, Schade, Rodzewicz and Robin. The last-named writes in *International Clinics*, 1905, volume III, that the colloidal metals exert a powerful catalytic action like that of the organic diastases and are destined to take a prominent place in functional therapeutics.

While colloidal silver is no such powerful bactericide as the salts of silver, it most assuredly does accomplish blood and tissue disinfection by an inhibitory effect on germ growth, by its electro-catalytic properties, and by its leucocyto-genetic action, if it is not used too late.

In view of these facts, the assertion that our claims for colloidal silver are "fabulous" and "obvious misstatements," is unjustified.

SCHERING & GLATZ.

The Association Button.

NEW ORLEANS, April 26, 1906.

To the Editor:—I hope that you will again and again urge the advisability of every member wearing the button, for by this means the public will soon learn to distinguish us from the many irregulars who infest every large city and call themselves doctors. Besides, the constant sight of these buttons will give the wearers power and influence in the public eye.

T. S. DABNEY, M.D.

CINCINNATI, April 24, 1906.

To the Editor:—The letter of Dr. Fletcher Ingals in THE JOURNAL meets with my hearty approval. There certainly should be a spirit of fraternity among physicians both at home and abroad, and especially so among members of the American Medical Association. I am surprised that the button is not more worn at other times than at the annual sessions.

E. S. MCKEE, M.D.

What's the Difference?

CHICAGO, ILL., April 26, 1906.

To the Editor:—The following advertisement, which has appeared in various papers, was taken from *Life* for April 5, 1906, where it appeared along with advertisements of corsets, Scotch whisky and other such things:

WILL YOU TRY THE BATTLE CREEK LIFE FOR 30 DAYS?
WILL YOU EAT THE FOODS AND LIVE THE LIFE OUR EXPERTS

RECOMMEND?

Do You Really Want to Be Perfectly Well?

Tell us, then, if you are ailing, or if in good health that you wish to remain so. Let us send you our book. It is very interesting. The life it recommends you can live in your own home. You ought to read about it. Nowhere else are so many specialists studying this one thing alone: how to get well and how to stay well. No organization anywhere has been so successful. None other is so near the truth. And the basis of all this is right food, right living, keeping the stomach right. All this we can explain in our book—explain clearly, logically, interestingly, so that you may understand. Isn't it worth the mere effort of writing us simply to know? Won't you ask for our book to-day? Address the Battle Creek Sanitarium Co., Ltd., Dept. A 191, Battle Creek, Mich.

Suppose you or I should insert in *Life*:

WILL YOU TRY MY TREATMENT FOR THIRTY DAYS?

Tell me if you are ailing or if (preposterous question)* you want to remain in good health.

Let me send you my book. The life it recommends you can live in your own home (by buying my things).

Nobody else is studying so thoroughly or has been so successful in solving the problems of how to get well and how to keep well. None other (than my earnest self) is so near the truth. (And doesn't this have the old familiar sound of the

* As the critics would say the parentheses are mine.—W. A. P.

letter-press that accompanies the picture of the gentleman in the orator's attitude in the advertisements we see in the daily papers?)

All this I explain in my little book, clearly, logically (and plausibly). Isn't it worth the effort of writing to know? (And isn't that like the gentleman with cures for this, that and the other who beseeches you to write him and wants to know if it isn't worth a postal card to get well?) Won't you write to-day (for if you put it off you are apt to forget it and I may be the loser, if you are not.) Address (so that I can keep track of my ads), Dept. X.

Suppose you or I perpetrated that sort of stuff on the community? What would be thought of us?

W. A. PUSEY.

Warning Against Fraudulent Insurance Agent.

SUMMERVILLE, S. C., April 27, 1906.

To the Editor:—If you will give publicity to the following you will do our profession a great service and aid in placing in the penitentiary one of the nerviest thieves in America. A man, six feet in height, with stubby, iron-gray moustache, large gray eyes with a decided outward and downward slant, rather prominent eyeballs, hair slightly curly, iron gray and rather thin over the forehead and on top of the head, weighing 260 pounds and about 60 years of age is traveling the country over, purporting to be an agent of the Columbian National Life Insurance Company. He has swindled a number of physicians in Charleston by the following scheme: He shows credentials as agent of the company and offers to appoint his intended victim a medical examiner and sell him stock of the company at a reduced price, representing that the stock is salable only to policy-holders and examining physicians, who can each purchase as many as four shares if they like, without being obliged to take a policy with the company. The unwary physician gives his check or \$30 in cash, for which he receives a receipt agreeing to deliver stock of the American Investment Securities Company. The Columbian National Life Insurance Company repudiates him and asks for his arrest if seen again. He left Charleston, giving Asheville, N. C., as his destination.

A. H. HAYDEN.

Association News

THE BOSTON SESSION.

Railroad Rates—Limits of Tickets—Stop-over Privileges—Hotels—Other Announcements.

The last issue of THE JOURNAL was the Boston number, containing some twenty pages of pictures and descriptive matter of interest to those who will attend the fifty-seventh annual session of the American Medical Association at Boston, June 5-8, 1906. Some additional information is given below, and if any other announcements are received later they will appear in subsequent issues of THE JOURNAL.

Hotels.

The chairman of the Committee on Hotels, Dr. Charles Harrington, 8 The Fenway, Boston, calls attention again to the announcement of hotels which appeared in THE JOURNAL last week. It will be to the advantage of all who wish accommodations in Boston to write at once, giving particulars, so that reservations may be made for them. The committee announces that in addition to the hotels specified there are many others of excellent quality, as well as many boarding houses, where members will find pleasant accommodations. The committee will assign rooms in accordance with the wishes of those who write to them.

Loan Exhibit of Portraits of Ophthalmologists.

It has been decided to hold a loan exhibit of portraits of ophthalmologists in a hall adjacent to the amphitheater in which the Section on Ophthalmology is to meet. Members of the section, and others, are requested to co-operate in making this exhibition as large and representative as possible by forwarding by mail or express, to the Williams & Everett Company, 190 Boylston Street, Boston, any portraits (etchings,

photographs, line engravings, paintings, etc.) of deceased ophthalmologists (especially Americans) that they may possess or can borrow for this purpose. The Williams & Everett Company will receive, unpack, care for and reship, without expense, any portrait so loaned. Credit will be given the lender, whose name should appear on or be attached to each portrait. When possible portraits should be forwarded without frames. From the pictures thus loaned it is expected to choose those that will best serve the purpose of the exhibit and to issue a catalogue to be distributed the first day of the session.

Pacific Coast August Return Limit Canceled.

The Transcontinental Passenger Association has withdrawn its proposed final return limit of August 31. The limit of all tickets will, therefore, be July 15.

Return Limit Extended.

As announced in THE JOURNAL last week, the final return limit of the Boston tickets, instead of June 30, will be July 15. Ordinarily the ticket will require the holder to leave Boston by June 18 after having had the ticket validated by the joint agent. To have the ticket extended it must be deposited with the agent not later than June 18, and it can be obtained just before departure.

Stop-over at New York.

Stop-over at New York may be obtained on the return trip on tickets reading via New York on these conditions:

1. The ticket must be validated by the joint agent at Boston.
2. The ticket must be deposited by the original purchaser in person with the joint agent at New York not later than one day after validation at Boston. (A fee of \$1 is required.)
3. The passenger will call at the New York validating office for the ticket not more than two hours before the departure of the train out of New York (except that if trains leave after 6 p. m. and before 9 a. m. ticket will be delivered before 6 p. m.).

NOTE.—Ticket will not be good leaving New York later than the day following the date of leaving Boston unless stop-over certificate is secured. For example, one who leaves Boston on Friday, reaching New York Saturday morning, could stop off in New York until the evening of Saturday, but no longer without securing a stop-over certificate.

Those who wish to stop off at New York and whose tickets do not read via New York should consult the agents of their railroads or the railroad officials at Boston for arrangements for this privilege.

Validating Agencies.

The Boston validating agent is Mr. P. H. Gallaher, 63 Federal Street, corner of Franklin. Office hours, 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. daily up to July 15 inclusive, except Sunday, when office hours will be from 12 noon to 5 p. m.

The New York joint agent is Mr. W. F. Holwill, 182 Fifth avenue, New York. His office hours are 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. daily.

Rates and Dates of Sale.

The rate to Boston is one fare plus \$1 for the round trip from territory east of the Mississippi River. Tickets will be on sale from May 31 or June 1 to June 9 in Central Passenger Association territory, but purchaser must not reach the gateways of the New England Passenger Association earlier than June 2 and must not arrive in Boston later than noon of June 12. Date of leaving Boston will not be earlier than June 2. (The return limit has been detailed above.)

Any One May Purchase Tickets.

Inquiries are received as to who may purchase tickets. These rates are open to any one, whether a physician or not.

An Ocean Trip to Boston.

Special excursion tickets are offered on boats of the Merchants' and Miners' Transportation Company, of Baltimore, between Boston, New York, Baltimore, Norfolk, Old Point Comfort, etc. A special round-trip from Baltimore to Boston is offered, going by way of Albany, Hudson River day line to New York and thence by rail to Baltimore at a rate of \$24.55.