Street, Chicago, and not to the Treasurer; but *all payments of annual dues must be forwarded to the Treasurer, Lock Box 1274, Philadelphia.*

DEATHS.—When a member of the Association, who is in regular receipt of the JOURNAL, dies, his family or other representatives are requested to inform the Treasurer at once of the fact.

PAYMENT OF DUES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS.—As a few members of the Association are still in arrears for payment of dues for 1883 and 1884, they are requested to forward at once to the Treasurer the amounts for which they are indebted to the Association.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION.—These annual volumes, thirty-three in number, to 1882 inclusive, may still be obtained, with few exceptions, from the Treasurer, at reduced prices. The Index to these volumes will be forwarded on receipt of *One Dollar*. An opportunity is thus afforded to complete sets of these valuable publications, or to obtain important papers and works which are daily becoming scarce.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

MIRYACHIT.—In an editorial note on this subject the *British Medical Journal* says: Etymologically the term *miryachit* is decidedly a failure, originating from a defective knowledge of Russian. *Miryachit*, or, as it should be written, *miriatchit*, means literally "he or she fools," or "plays the fool." It is derived from the verb *miriatchitje*. The verbal noun is *miriatchenië* (fooling or playing the fool); he or she who *miriatchit*, is *miriasha*. Hence—if it be desirable to retain a Russian word—it would be more sensible to call the disease *miriatchenië*, as it is called in Russian, instead of *miryachit* (he fools). In the *Iratch*, No. 36, 1885, p. 602, Dr. Jankovsky publishes an interesting note on an epidemic of this curious neurosis, which has come under his observation in the Littoral District of Eastern Siberia. He first came to be acquainted with *miriashas* in this way. One fine evening in 1876, shortly after he had been appointed surgeon to the 1st Eastern Siberian Infantry Battalion, a *feldsher* (assistant-surgeon) on duty hurried to him with a startling information that fourteen "mad" soldiers had been brought to the hospital. On his arrival, the author really found a crowd of the patients, and, naturally enough, addressed to them the question, "What is the matter with you?" To his greatest astonishment, all fourteen addressed him in chorus, "What is the matter with you?" He tried then to put the interrogation in another way, "What ails you?" The answer followed again, "What ails you?" In short, every word of the medical man was simply echoed by every one and all of the patients. On examination, he found, in every individual case, increased apex-beat, rapid pulse, extreme nobility of the limbs, (especially of the hand), somewhat increased cutaneous sensibility, dilatation or contraction of the pupils, gay disposition, laughter,

or smiling, without any reason whatever, etc. While the author was examining the patients, an officer in command arrived, and informed him that all the men had had for their supper potatoes with hemp-oil, the latter being bought of a Corean hawk. On hearing the word "oil" (*maslo*) spoken by their commander, all the soldiers suddenly went on with repeating "Oil, oil, oil," in all possible manners, in spite of all entreaties and injunctions. In view of the fact that one of the patients vomited, and after vomiting ceased to "fool," the author ordered emetics and purgatives in every case. The patient, slept quietly through the night, and on the next morning all were well, being able to only vaguely recollect the events of the previous day ("as if in a dream"). An inquiry elucidated that the Corean oil-merchant was a *miriasha*, and that "fooling" attacked only those soldiers who had seen and spoken to him. Another case of multiple *miriatchenië* was observed by Dr. Jankovsky in Vladivostok in 1878, in four children of one family, aged from 3 to 7 years. Sporadic cases of "fooling" were met with by him very often. As a rule, the disease is chronic, and apt to spontaneous remissions. It begins mostly under the influence of contact with a *miriasha*, but sometimes is hereditary. It attacks only natives and "well acclimated" immigrants, and here again only children and subjects of a "low intellectual level." The general health of the *miriasha* remains intact. The disease usually does not interfere with the occupation of the patient. It is obviously a form of "epidemic male hysteria."

PROGRESS OF SMALL-POX AND CHOLERA.—From the circular of the National Board of Health, dated January 27, 1886, we take the following results of small-pox in Montreal up to January 20, 1886. During the week ending Jan. 21 there were 10 deaths in the city and 6 in its suburbs. The total number of deaths from small-pox in the city of Montreal from the beginning of the epidemic in April to December 31, was 3,164, as follows: In April, 6; May, 10; June, 14; July, 46; August, 239; September, 659; October, 1,393; November, 633; December, 165. There were also 363 deaths from measles, typhoid fever and diphtheria during the year, and the total mortality from all causes during 1885 was 7,885 as against 4,358 during 1884. Consular reports from different parts of Europe show that the disease is decidedly declining as a whole.

From the same sources we learn of the continued prevalence of cholera moderately in the Province of Huelva in Spain, and in the single Department of Finisterre in France.

OFFICIAL LIST OF CHANGES IN THE STATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS SERVING IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, U. S. ARMY, FROM JANUARY 23, 1886, TO JANUARY 20, 1886.

Col. John E. Summers, Surgeon U. S. Army, retired from active service, by operation of law, Jan. 24, 1886. (S. O. 20, A. G. O., Jan. 25, 1886.)

Major Wm. E. Waters, Surgeon, granted leave of absence for one month and fifteen days. (S. O. 5, Div. Atlantic, Jan. 23, 1886.)

Asst. Surgeon J. M. Banister, ordered for temporary duty at Ft. Warren, Mass. (S. O. 16, Dept. East, Jan 23, 1886.)