schools. Up to the present the entrances of fresh students have been decidedly below the average of past years. Professor John Eric Erichsen, speaking at King's College, stated that King's College and University College had coöperated in furthering one of the noblest and greatest educational works ever propounded in London, viz.: the endeavor to establish, for the first time in the history of London, a University in and for London. A Royal Commission had been sitting for some months to consider the advisability of acceding to the petition of the two Colleges for the proposed new University. There was a great deal of misapprehension in the public mind as to the proposed Albert University. The sons and daughters of Londoners suffered much from the difficulty of obtaining a thorough university education in the metropolis, and it was now necessary for them to go to distant institutions in pursuit of such an education. But both King's College and University College possessed every requisite for that system of university education. Taking their size, wealth and endowments, and their general position as educational establishments, the governing bodies of the colleges felt that they were fully justified in petitioning that University rank might be conferred upon them. If the petition were granted, and if University rank were granted to the two Colleges, in connection especially with the medical schools of London, they would be able to start at once with a body of undergraduates more numerous than that possessed by any University in the United Kingdom. It would number something like 2,000 or, if those who would come in from other medical schools were included, the number would be considerably over 3,000. The medical profession was, the Professor said in conclusion, the Republic of Medicine in this sense—that there was no hereditary road to it, and there was no privileged class in it. Every position in it was open to all men who had the ability to aspire to and the will to seize it.

Detractors of Professor Pasteur are attaching great importance to the case of a young man who has just died of hydrophobia twenty-seven months after the completion of the Pasteur treatment. The deceased, a farmer 26 years of age, was bitten by a mad dog in the month of May, 1886, in the little finger of the right hand. On the tip of the finger there were three wounds, which were in the first place cauterized with a red-hot iron—this precaution, however, not being taken until two or three days after the accident. Soon afterwards the farmer came to Paris, presented himself at the Pasteur laboratory and underwent the usual course of treatment. He returned home and enjoyed his usual health until the summer of the present year, when he caught a slight cold and complained of pain in the bitten finger. The pain rapidly extended to the arm, the shoulder and the right side, and a day or two subsequently he became

convulsive and was removed to a hospital, where he died with all the usual symptoms of rabies. The conclusion M. Pasteur's adversaries draw from this case is that the eminent Professor's system offers no guarantee against the terrible consequences that may attend the bite of a mad dog. Probably, however, M. Pasteur will have something to say respecting the case referred to which will give it another aspect.

Mr. Gould has recently, at the Middlesex Hospital, successfully performed the operation of fixing a movable kidney. Mr. Gould considers the mode of passing the suture of great importance. Instead of making a large curved needle, such as is usually employed, carry the suture at a single sweep through the organ and lumbar aponeurosis, he prefers first to pass the suture through the kidney, taking up as broad a piece of its capsule and cortex as possible, and then to pass each end of the suture through its corresponding portion of the lumbar aponeurosis. Two sutures passed in this manner are found sufficient to hold the kidney firmly, and if they are tied carefully, the chance of their cutting out through the kidney, and so not holding it so securely as desired, are reduced to a minimum. A subsidiary advantage of the buried suture is that the wound can be closed smoothly and accurately by the ordinary sutures. When the kidney is fixed by external sutures they pucker the wound and interfere with the most rapid and perfect healing. As to the material of the deep sutures, Mr. Gould considers silk, as being more durable than gut or tendon, would be preferable, were it not that it is more difficult to render absolutely aseptic than is kangaroo tendon. That, at any rate, is his experience; and the tendon has answered so well in his hands as a ligature in ovariectomy and as a suture in the radical cure of hernia, that he uses it with full confidence.

Ichthyol for erysipelas has been successful in the hands of some medical men. It is used in combination with ether, 10 parts of each in 180 parts of collodion, as a local application. An ointment composed of equal parts of ichthyol and vaseline has also been successfully employed.

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

Monstrosities and Mental Impressions.

Dear Sir:—The article in THE JOURNAL of October 13th reminds us that for ages woman has been tortured with fears and anxieties created by those who should be her shield and strength. Hardly a woman since Satan

"Squat like a toad close at the ear of Eve,
Assaying by his devilish arts to reach
The organs of her fancy,"

has gone through her pregnancy without experi-

encing an impression far more potent than catching a frog instead of a fish. If by any law her fears, and hopes, and desires could change the form of her unborn child, the race would long ago have been transformed to beasts and birds and creeping things. The "ring-streaked, speckled and spotted" results of Jacob's experiments on Laban's ewes would be nothing to the markings of mankind, and we might well question the wisdom of the All Wise, as well as the power of Him who ordained "each after his kind." But from the myriad impressions, powerful impressions, made upon expectant mothers, how many leave "mother's marks," and how many mother's marks conform to any given impression? What physician has not been consulted about such impressions, and who has not had cases corresponding with this? The husband of Mrs. —, in a playful mood, brought from the barn a handful of hairless young rats, and saying to his young wife, a few weeks advanced in her first pregnancy, "Here, my dear," emptied them into her extended hands. She dropped them upon the floor and shudderingly exclaimed, "My baby will look like those things." She believed in her power to impress the child. The fear tortured her through the long months of pregnancy, and when the babe was born her first question was "Does it look like a rat?" It is hardly necessary to say it did not. Or who has not had experiences like this: The child was born, and the good ladies in attendance asked "What did you see? No? Why you must have seen something." And so they strove to find the impression that caused spina bifida. Or the child is born with an anastomotic aneurism on the head, and after many questions and cross-questions about cherries and strawberries and plums the mother at last remembers that she longed for plums.

We have seen many and various "marks" and deformities, but none that conformed any more nearly to a given idea in the mother's mind than the horse's mane in Nelligan's plates on skin diseases, or Dr. Jessup's frog; and if mothers can't do better than these examples they may as well give up mental impression art.

Let us glance a moment at the logic of what might only cause a smile if it was not the source of painful anxiety in those we love. When an ovarian becomes an embryonic cell it is a new life and differentiates and proliferates other cells in harmony with its individuality. Henceforward it appropriates whatever it receives, whether from the mother's blood or breast, from cow or cook, in accordance with the laws of its own organism, and the mother has no more power through a mental impression upon her blood or milk to make its development conform to a given idea than the cow or the cook. She may, through the undue exercise of the emotions, through improper diet or disease poison the food she provides, but that is

the extent of her power. When it has entered another organism it is beyond her control. She cannot by any mental impression cause a maldevelopment in her own body conforming to a given idea. Much less can she produce such a result in another, however closely related to her.

Are we pointed to wonderful experiences and asked to account for them? Experience and mysticism prove anything from the cures of homœopathic dynamizations and "Christian Scientists," to "mother's marks." But as with the nostrum vender, their proof lies in advertising exceptional results, and forgetting alike the great body of facts and physiological, pathological and therapeutic principles.

The head of the foetus, being its heaviest part, ordinarily lies next the vagina. Plums, cherries, etc., are usually found about the head and shoulders. If elsewhere, note if the child had not some other presentation. A slight *punch* is sufficient in early foetal life to cause an anastomotic aneurism or other *mark*.

In 1885 we waited on Mrs. —. The baby had no forehead. The top of the head was flat and covered with bony nodules. The expression of the child was idiotic, and its limbs imperfectly developed. We saw in the expression and the imperfect development sequents of an injured and undeveloped brain. We did not inquire about mental impressions but had a history of libidinous connection that produced the conviction that quite another kind of impression had caused what we saw.

We know that some malformations are considered violations of all law—a law unto themselves. If so, we cannot account for their deformities. But, can there be any effect without an efficient cause? Our profession and humanity demands that we seek such cause and strive to quiet the cruel fears of those who bear the curse "In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children."

W. L. SCHENCK, M.D.

Osage City, Kansas, Oct. 16, 1888.

MISCELLANEOUS.

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION.—The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association will be held in Milwaukee, Wis., on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 20, 21, 22, 23, 1888, at the Atheneum Hall, commencing at 10 A.M. Reduced R. R. rates can be secured from all sections of the country on the certificate plan. Papers and reports have been announced as follows:

The President's Address.

"The History and Administration of Quarantine in Texas, 1878 to 1888."—By R. Rutherford M.D., State Health Officer of Texas.

"The Canadian System of Maritime Sanitation."—By F. Montizambert, M.D., Quarantine Officer at Grosse Isle, St. Lawrence River.

"Yellow Fever: Panics and Useless Quarantines—its