CORRESPONDENCE.

A Domestic Test for Albuminous Urine.

NEW YORK CITY, October, 1895.

To the Editor:—This is the title of a paper read by the writer at the last meeting of the New York Medical Association, held in New York City, Oct. 15, 1895. Thinking that an abstract of the important part of that paper might be of some value to the readers of the JOURNAL, it is sent to the JOURNAL with the hope that you will deem it worthy of publication.

The method of making this test is as follows: pour into a test tube an inch of urine; with a dropper, drop carefully upon the surface of the urine half its quantity of alcohol. If albumin be present in the urine, a white line will form between the two fluids, the same as in the cold nitric acid test.

The other method is to put the alcohol in the test tube first, and drop as before, the urine into it. If albumin be present in the urine, it will be made known by a white wave of coagulated albumin following the urine as it sinks to the bottom of the test tube. The urine being heavier than the alcohol will gravitate to the bottom of the tube very quickly. After a small quantity of urine has been added, the alcohol will become opaque with the coagulated albumin. This test is so sensitive that the one-hundredth of 1 per cent. of albumin when present in the urine can be detected.

The writer has used this method for about a year, both in private practice and hospital work. It has been found to be the most convenient and most delicate of tests.

Mucus will be coagulated if it be present, and may be mistaken for albumin. Filtering before testing will eliminate mucus; if one is still in doubt, any of the control tests for mucus can be made. No other ingredient of abnormal urine will give any trouble, more than when any other method for testing urine is employed. Alcohol, if of the strength of 60 per cent., when clear, will answer every purpose, excepting one of delicacy.

A glass tumbler may be used when it is impossible to obtain a test tube. No heat, no acids required. So convenient is the test that the physician can not be excused if he fails to discover the presence of albumin.

The writer is convinced by a year's experience in the use of this method that if the profession will give it a trial none will be disappointed. Any doubts which may remain in one's mind, can be removed by control tests. Few of us rely upon one single test, by whatever method made.

J. G. TRUAX, M.D.

School Books on Physiology and Hygiene.

HARTFORD, CONN., October, 1895.

To the Editor:—We inclose the following report, which at this time has considerable medical interest in many sections of the country. During the past few years laws have been passed in Congress, and the Legislatures of forty-one different States, requiring instruction in the public school on physiology, hygiene and the effects of spirits and narcotics on the human body. A large number of school books have been prepared to meet this requirement, nearly all of which have been compiled and edited by medical men, many of whom are eminent in the profession.

Many of these works have been assailed in the daily press and denounced as containing errors, but the criticism so far has been limited to mere statements. The authors of these works have invited from the medical profession the most critical examination and inquiry concerning the accuracy of the facts stated.

This report is in accordance with this request, and the object (in which all medical men are interested) is to eliminate all possible errors and raise the character and accuracy of such works to the highest possible standard.

Very truly yours,

H. A. B.

REPORT.

We, the undersigned physicians, have been requested to ex-

amine and report on the various school physiologies which have been introduced to comply with the laws requiring temperance instruction in common schools.

Our special attention has been directed to that part relating to the effects of alcohol, opium and other narcotics on the human body. We have received and carefully examined eight different series of books called by the following names: "The Pathfinder," "Appleton's," "Eclectic," "Union," "Blaisdell," "Dulaney's," "The Health Series," and "Martin's High School Physiology."

As a result of this examination we are unanimous in opinion that the statements and teachings of these works concerning the effects of alcohol and other narcotics on the body are correct, and fully supported by the most authoritative studies of scientific investigators up to the present time.

We are also of opinion that in both letter and spirit, these works are highly commendable, particularly in the admirable groupings of physiologic and hygienic facts, with excellent illustrations and clear concise statements.

The practical character of these books commend them to us, and the interest and value of their teachings would seem to place them among the most important subjects that can be used in our public schools. (Signed.)

T. D. CROTHERS, M.D.,

Superintendent Walnut Lodge Hospital, Hartford, Conn.,
editor of *Journal of Inebriety*.

I. N. QUIMBY, M.D.,

Vice-President American Medical Temperance Association,
etc., Jersey City, N. J.

LEWIS D. MASON, M.D.,

President of American Association for the Study and Cure
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West Tennessee Medical and Surgical Association.

PARIS, TENN., Oct. 23, 1895.

To the Editor:—Please announce the meeting of West Tennessee Medical and Surgical Association at Covington, Tenn., Nov. 21 and 22, 1895. Very truly yours,

I. A. MCSWAIN, M.D., Secretary.

SOCIETY NEWS.

"American Medicine."

In response to a toast at the annual dinner of the Chicago Gynecological Society, Oct. 18, 1895, DR. JOHN H. HOLLISTER, said:

Let no man be over-anxious about his reputation. If he intend the right and does his best, ultimately that reputation will take care of itself and of him too. This is true of individuals—true of nations. Great as has been the progress of nations during the last 300 years, the development of America in that period has been the phenomenal fact. Cradled without parental care, it came to its estate without the help of other nations; in fact, it grew by reason of their neglect. A noble manhood was its only inheritance. All else is of its own creation. For nearly two centuries we were esteemed a semi-barbarous people by the crowned heads and the elite of Europe, and their prejudices have only been in any measure conquered by our sublime indifference.

The struggle to make for ourselves a name and a place among the foremost, has been indeed severe, but the issue is no longer doubtful. You who have met this prejudice on foreign shores know well how strong it yet remains, but you know full well that, as professional men, you have nothing left to fear, and that especially in medicine and surgery Americans have no apologies to make. We are to be courteous ever, but deferential or craven, if ever we were, nevermore.

Happily for us, American history holds no relationship with the mythical ages. Our genesis was clearly written and the successive stages of our development are sharply defined. From the landing of Columbus to this hour, ours has been a story of thrilling interest, and I am asked within these ten minutes to outline to you the agency of medical men in the accomplishment of present results. Were every page of mine a volume, the half of their records in the making of American history could not be told. Indulge me, therefore, in a little free-hand drawing while, from a single