gratitude to the editor of our contemporary for the unvarying, convincing and disinterested manner in which he has pointed out to his fellow townsmen the right course to take in regard to vaccination. In temperate language he has consistently advocated vaccination, simply because he has honestly satisfied himself that there was no other alternative to adopt in the presence of the terrible epidemic which was raging in the town. The statistics, moreover, which appeared in a recent number of our contemporary, regarding the epidemics, form a strong argument showing the utility of vaccination. The mortality among the total number of cases attacked was 21.7 per cent.; of the unvaccinated cases, 41.4 per cent.; of the vaccinated only in infancy, 8.5 per cent.; and of the uncertain cases, 32.2 per cent.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Testimonial to Dr. Davis.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., July 6, 1896.

To the Editor:—The note of Dr. Overlock in the number for July 4, relative to a medal demands some information. The medal to which he alludes is that ordered by the ASSOCIATION in 1875; see Vol. xxvi, page 35. In accordance with the instructions then given, I had a number of the medals struck off and sent to those who forwarded the money. The date on the medal does not mean that when it was issued, but the date of the origin of the ASSOCIATION. Although Dr. Davis was quite prominent in the work of organizing the ASSOCIATION, yet at that time no thought existed of having a medal issued with his likeness on it. The meeting of the profession to organize a national society was held in New York, as stated in the note in the JOURNAL, but Dr. Lewis Williams was not present. I make this mention with no captious spirit but to keep history straight.

Yours very truly,

WM. B. ATKINSON M.D.

Another Explanation.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., JULY 6, 1896.

To the Editor:—I am sorry to have to trouble you with another explanation. But please allow me to say that I did not advocate before the Conference of State Boards of Health any such scheme of organization as that which you ascribe to me, nor anything in any way resembling it.¹ You are certainly writing under the influence of information that is entirely incorrect. This will be plain when the official Report of the Proceedings of the Conference of State Boards are published. The proposed bill has not taken definite shape. Only its larger provisions have been decided upon. It is some little time yet before Congress meets; and ever since the session of the ASSOCIATION in Atlanta I have been in a most miserable condition of health; during the last two weeks I have been in bed. Under these circumstances I have not been able to push this work as I otherwise would have done. I have been in correspondence with leading physicians in several states and have made some progress toward the proposed enlargement of the Committee.

In the meantime I take this opportunity to say through the JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION that my Committee and myself will be greatly obliged for any suggestions looking to the completion of a wise and judicious bill; and this invitation is especially extended to the Editor of the JOURNAL.

Yours truly,

JEROME COCHRAN, M.D.

Chairman of Committee.

¹ Our information was in writing, and from a member of the Conference.—ED.

If She Had Only Been Batteized.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., July 9, 1896.

To the Editor:—Apropos of recent contributions to the JOURNAL by Drs. Boal and Daniel suggesting castration as a punishment for certain derelicts (degenerates?) I enclose an excerpt from a reliable source:

"Prof. Pellmann of Bonn University, who makes a special study of heredity, has been tracing the career of the descendants of Frau Ada Jurke, a notorious drunkard, who was born in 1740 and died in 1800. Her descendants have numbered 834, of whom 709 have been traced from youth by Prof. Pellmann. Of these, 7 were convicted of murder; 76 of other crimes; 142 were professional beggars; 64 lived on charity, and 181 women of the family led disreputable lives. The family has cost the German Government for maintenance and cost in the courts, almshouses and prisons, \$1,250,000."

The details are quite as startling as those connected with the history of a colored female crook, which were published in Massachusetts some years ago. Herein is food for reflection.

Yours truly,

C. M. FENN, M.D.

Not Antitoxin.

CHICAGO, July 13, 1896.

To the Editor:—In the JOURNAL of 11th inst. p. 113, appears the following:

"Another Death from Antitoxin.—Dr. W. J. Nolan of Chicago, writes the following to the New York Medical Journal:

"285 Loomis St., Chicago, June 24, 1896.

"To the Editor of the New York Medical Journal: Sir:—In view of the discussion now going on in the Journal, of which I have been three years a reader and subscriber, I frankly indorse the views of Dr. Winters in regard to antitoxin in diphtheria. Of one case I must write in terms of strong condemnation. The facts are as follows: I was called to see a boy, 8 years old, pulse rapid, temperature 105 degrees, and the laryngeal appearance quasi-diphtheritic. I began the ordinary treatment, in which quinin, carbolic acid and iron formed chief parts. The result next morning was very satisfactory; all alarming symptoms were decidedly not much in evidence. Some time in the evening of this better day, our antitoxin friends raided the house and began their injections à l'outrance. They did not inform me, I need scarcely say; but like birds of evil omen, they swooped down on a defenseless widow and daughters, and injected mightily, nay, as the sequel proved, mortally. Need I express an opinion after this on the discovery, or at least its manipulators? W. J. Nolan, M.D."

On reading the foregoing in the New York publication of the 4th inst., inquiry was at once made as the facts, with results which led to the following correspondence:

"Chicago, July 6, 1896.

"To the Editor of the New York Medical Journal: Sir:—Not so much in defense of antitoxin—which hardly needs any—as in common justice to its 'manipulators' in this city, as a correspondent, Dr. Nolan, styles them in his letter published in last week's Journal, I ask your publication of the enclosed statement of the facts in the case he therein refers to.

Faithfully yours, F. W. Reilly, M.D."

"Chicago, July 6, 1896.

"F. W. Reilly, M.D., Assistant Commissioner of Health.

Dear Doctor: Referring to the letter in the New York Medical Journal of July 4, by Dr. W. J. Nolan of 285 Loomis St., I find by the notes in my visiting list I was called May 27 to that case by Dr. Bergeron who had been called and finding it was a severe case of diphtheria, referred the people to me saying he would prefer not to treat diphtheria. On my arrival I found the case extremely severe, advanced beyond the fourth day, Klebs-Löffler bacilli and also strepto- and staphylo-cocci in abundance, and every evidence of septicemia. I gave an unfavorable prognosis but injected antitoxin with a forlorn hope; and also immunized all the other five children in the family. Then I was informed by the mother that Dr. Nolan had been called on Sunday, May 23, made his second visit on Monday, and then abandoned the case. Thereupon they sent for Dr. Bergeron and by him the case was referred to me. The case was strictly a charity one and so known to be by Dr. Bergeron, and I was compelled to furnish medicine at my own expense. The child died as I predicted on my first visit. None

of the children immunized contracted the disease. The mother, who was not immunized, contracted diphtheria, was treated with antitoxin and promptly recovered.

"I did not see the case nor was antitoxin administered until July 27, the second day after Dr. Nolan had abandoned it. The mother—the defenseless widow—had given him the last dollar she had in the house. She is eminently satisfied with what I did for her child, as are all of the family, and unstinted in her condemnation of Dr. Nolan for his 'heartless neglect,' as she terms it.

Respectfully submitted,

E. P. Murdock, M.D., Medical Inspector."

I am this morning in receipt of the *New York Medical Journal* of the 11th inst., but fail to find therein any mention of Dr. Murdock's statement of facts and am, therefore, compelled to appeal to your sense of editorial justice to say whether the caption "Another Death from Antitoxin" now seems to you to be warranted.

F. W. REILLY, M.D.

Our Journal.

TECUMSEH, MICH., July, 4, 1896.

To the Editor:—The JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION was born and passed through its early infantile life in Chicago, arrived at robust manhood in that city, and in Chicago I vote for THE JOURNAL to remain, where it will be in touch with cosmopolitan schools and hospitals.

Respectfully, J. F. JENKINS, M.D.

NECROLOGY.

CHARLES STYER, M.D., a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Medical Department, of 1862, died at his home

CHARLES STYER, M.D.

in Philadelphia, July 6, aged 46 years. He was surgeon to the 99th Regiment, P. V., and in June, 1867 he entered the regular army as assistant surgeon, served on the frontier in the southwest mainly, until he resigned June, 1878, to engage in private practice. In 1885, he was appointed Acting Assistant Surgeon in the United States Marine-Hospital service at Philadelphia. For several years he was also one of the Medical Staff of the German Hospital of Philadelphia. He was a prominent member and medical examiner of several social and beneficial orders, being Surgeon-in-Chief of the Royal Arcanum. He was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and has been Post Surgeon, Post Commander, Medical Director of the Department of Pennsylvania and Surgeon-General of the National Encampment. Dr. Styer leaves a widow and two sons. His death was found to have been caused by an aneurysm.

SIR GEORGE JOHNSON, M.D., whose death has recently been announced, was a man of mark in his day and generation, in the great metropolis where his life-work was done. Sir George

was born in November, 1818, at Goudhurst, in Kent, and was educated at the Grammar School there. At 19 he was apprenticed to a relative, a general practitioner, residing in Cranbrook, Kent, and two years later, in October, 1839, he entered the Medical School at King's College, London, where he greatly distinguished himself as a student, gaining many prizes. In the wards he was a clinical clerk under Dr. Todd, and a dresser to Sir William Ferguson, and after qualifying, he filled the post of house physician and house surgeon. In 1844 he received his degree of M.D. from the University of London, after having passed through a creditable university career. The position to which he had attained as a prominent alumnus of his medical school at once marked him out as a likely candidate for an appointment on the staff of his hospital, and in 1857 he was elected one of the assistant physicians, succeeding Royle as Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics. In this appointment he continued until 1863, when he became Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine, which appointment he resigned in 1876 when he became professor of clinical medicine. His connection with the Royal College of Physicians began when he became a member of that body in 1846. Four years later, an unprecedentedly short period, he was elected a Fellow of the College, and subsequently he held the offices of Examiner in Medicine, Junior Censor, Senior Censor, and Vice-President. The blue ribbon of science was conferred upon him in 1872, when he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. The following are further honors of which he was the recipient: In 1884, the Presidency of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; in 1889, physician extraordinary to the Queen; in 1892, knighthood.

DR. GEORGE W. RYAN died at the Betts Street Hospital, Cincinnati, July 11, of cirrhosis of the liver after a lingering illness. Dr. Ryan was born in Louisville, Ky., thirty-six years ago and graduated with honors from the university of that city. For a number of years he was connected with the Hospital of the Ruptured and Crippled of New York, where he achieved a national reputation for his surgical work. He came to Cincinnati about twelve years ago and at once commanded a large and lucrative practice. At the time of his death he was a member of the surgical staff of the St. Mary's and Presbyterian hospitals, also a professor in the Ohio Medical college. Dr. Ryan was a whole-souled fellow well met and a gentleman who counted his friends by the hundreds. He was a single man and one of the most popular members of the University club. The remains were shipped to Louisville Saturday, where interment took place.

JAMES S. HOPE, Passed Assistant Surgeon United States Navy, who had been on duty at the Pensacola Navy Yard for two years past, died July 1, in Roosevelt Hospital, New York, after a surgical operation had been performed upon him for a tumor. The remains were carried to Surgeon Hope's old home, Norfolk, Va., for interment. He graduated from the University of Virginia, medical department, Charlottesville, Va., in 1887.

SOCIETY NEWS.

New York State Medical Association—SECOND DISTRICT BRANCH.—The twelfth annual meeting convened at Albany, June 26. Ten counties were represented.

The Tri-county Medical Society of Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion, Ill., met at Paxton, Ill., July 7.

State Board of Medical Examiners of New Jersey.—The annual meeting of this Board was held at Asbury Park, N. J., July 6. Dr. William Perry Watson of Jersey City was elected president, Dr. E. L. B. Godfrey of Camden secretary, and Dr. A. Uebelacker of Morristown treasurer. The next examinations of this Board will be held at Trenton, September 15 and 16.