ing that any additional amendments to said bill should meet our hearty approval so long as the purport of its original intent and meaning shall remain unchanged and the amendments are germane to the bill, for we may not be able to get the bill enacted exactly in its present form and it may become necessary to make some minor changes, etc.

I am also reminded that the boldness of reason is approaching, and that many of our Senators and Representatives will "go home" on a visit at this time. This will afford us a splendid opportunity to personally respectfully request of our friends, our National legislators, that they carefully consider "our" Department of Public Health bill, with the view that favorable action will be taken by them toward passing this already too long delayed measure. And why should there not be a Medical Secretary or a Commissioner of Public Health, to be on a parity and rank with equal dignity as the various secretaries of the other departments of the Federal Government?

Why should the Secretary of the Treasury be longer expected to (nominally) remain at the head of the hygienic welfare of this nation? The answer is, We are too great and have outgrown such ideas.

In conclusion, I trust that Congress, during the present session, will legislate upon this question for the "welfare of the people" as provided in the Constitution of 1787, adopted in 1788, and that every physician throughout the country who has not already personally interviewed his Representative or United States Senator and discussed this topic with him, will do so, by correspondence or otherwise, within the near future, and appeal to him to vote for said bill.

With best wishes for our Journal also in its efforts in this (the right) direction, and for its future prosperity, and a very merry Christmas and bright New Year to all its readers, I beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

LISTON H. MONTGOMERY, M.D.

Concerning Rates to the Denver Meeting.

SIoux Falls, S. D., Dec. 16, 1897.

To the Editor:—Dr. J. F. Jenkins in the Journal of December 11, thinks that if the Committee on Transportation could obtain the same rates to the meeting of the American Medical Association that other less important bodies get, we could have at least five thousand physicians present at the Denver meeting next year. Now, we have been informed that the doctors formerly had all they could ask for in the way of rates, until they abused their privileges. The railroad companies finally kept tab, and discovered that in one year, free transportation to the amount of about $20,000 had been called for and used to go to places other than the Association, over and above that actually used in good faith. The railroads thereupon cut off free transportation over each other's lines to their surgeons, thereby punishing the innocent with the guilty.

Hence, the doctors have some of their own numbers alone to blame in that direction. If the committee could induce the railroad companies to grant transportation to their surgeons, under such restrictions that the companies could not be imposed upon, hundreds of railroad surgeons would attend who could not otherwise afford to do so.

The incidental expenses outside of transportation amount to quite an item to the average country doctor.

Our experience with railroad companies is that they appreciate good, honest service, and are liberal with those who do not abuse their privileges. It is certainly to their advantage to have their surgeons use every available means to improve themselves professionally.

It is true, the American Medical Association includes all regular physicians in good standing who wish to join, and is in no way intended more for one branch or class of the profession than another; yet the existence of two national associations of railway surgeons, besides numerous smaller ones, demonstrates that that class of physicians are active and progressive; men who would not only be glad to avail themselves of the benefits of the American Medical Association, but would make valuable members as well.

Yours respectfully,

A. H. TUTTS, M.D.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Prophylaxis of Yellow Fever.—Lacerda states that the epidemics of yellow fever in Rio de Janeiro are due to the periodic revivification of the germs of yellow fever in certain permanent foci in the interior of houses and the holds of ships, where they propagate, favored by dampness, darkness and filth. They can not live any length of time in sewers nor in open water, nor anywhere exposed to the sun. His conclusions were adopted by the Academia de Medecina, which proclaimed that the extinction of these foci in Rio de Janeiro is practicable and necessary.—O Brazil Médico, October 22.

Sanitation of Railways and Steam Vessels.—The New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal states that the State Board of Health of Louisiana has adopted resolutions calling attention to the present lack of sanitary measures in vogue on public carriers, notably steam vessels and railroad sleeping cars. The necessity for reform in this particular is too glaring to need defense. No one who travels fails to observe the offence to health and ethics which exists on the steamship or sleeping car. The wash basin is used by the porter for his own toilet, and it is not an infrequent thing to see the cuspidors washed out at the same font. From the standpoint of health, it is familiar to all that no provision is made for those suffering with tubercular affections or with other ailments. We have seen the syphilitic, in acute eruptive stage, use the common drinking-glass, the toilet articles and eating from the buffet crockery. Not long since a lamentable instance was related to us of a woman dying of tuberculosis, on her way to New Orleans, making the car uncomfortable by her spells of coughing and rendering the atmosphere unbearable by the emanations from the decomposing lungs. The Pullman conductor relating the incident, deplored the fact that no provision was made for the separation of such cases. Resolutions can only direct intelligent thought at the remedy, but persistent effort in directing attention to the necessity for some remedial measure must result from its application. State legislators have it in their power to compel sanitary measures through their State Board of Health, and there is no reason why the legislative action should not go farther in compelling provision for the hospital accommodation in transit for such cases as the above.

Fumigation of the Domicile by Corrosive Sublimate, followed by Sulphur.—The October number of Public Health contains the following annotation regarding the disinfection of rooms after contagious disease. Professor Koenig of Goettingen, in a recent article, says that at one time, while he was practicing medicine in Hanau, he suddenly discovered that his bed room was thickly inhabited by obnoxious insects. A friend assured him that he could easily get rid of the pests and proceeded to fumigate the apartment with corrosive sublimate. The success of this measure was most gratifying, and when the room was opened the dead bodies of various kinds of insects were seen strewn about the floor. This incident led the professor to hope that the same means would be effectual in destroying the infectious elements of contagious diseases, and a trial in private houses after scarlet fever or measles, and in hospitals after erysipelas or pyemia, gave most satisfactory results. Since adopting this method he has never seen a second case of contagious disease which could be attributed to infection remaining in the room in which the patient had been confined. The mode of procedure is very simple. From one and one-half to two ounces...