Anti-Cancer Dispensary.—The German cancer research committee has appropriated \$500 to fit up a small dispensary exclusively for cancer subjects on the same lines as the anti-tuberculosis dispensaries in France, described in an editorial on "Home Treatment of Tuberculosis" on page 33.

Accident to Esmarch.—We regret to learn that this famous veteran surgeon has recently fractured his clavicle. The latest reports say that his condition is as satisfactory as could be expected. His eightieth birthday was celebrated with much ceremony last year.

Endowed Beds in the Russian Red Cross Society.—The reports from the seat of war are censored too closely for much information in regard to the medical aspect of the war to appear in our Russian exchanges at present. One states, however, that there are 1,039 memorial endowed beds at the disposal of the Red Cross Society. It has now 18 field hospitals at the seat of active war, with 3,535 beds.

Prizes for Diversion of the Sick.—A German paper, the organ of the nurses in the hospitals and elsewhere, announces three money prizes for the best works on the occupation, diversion, entertaining and recreation of the sick. Further details in regard to the prizes are given in No. 10 of the journal—the *Deutsche Krankenpflegezeitung*—published by Elwin Staude, Berlin. This number will be sent postpaid and free of charge to all who write for it.

Organization of the Profession in Germany.—As an instance of the way in which the physicians of southern Germany are standing shoulder to shoulder in the struggle with the sickness insurance societies, we note that only a single applicant responded to an advertisement for medical officers after the resignation of all the physicians of the sickness insurance society at Ruhpolding. The society advertised in the three principal Bavarian dailies, but not another response was elicited. The company then acceded to the demands of its former medical officers, and reinstated them.

South American International Sanitary Conference.—Representatives of the principal South American states met at Rio Janeiro, June 5 to 12, to consider measures of sanitary prophylaxis. The measures hitherto in vogue have now become obsolete, and the conference decreed that they should be abandoned, and others, to conform to the latest scientific data, be adopted. The representative of Brazil in the conference was Dr. Azevedo Sodré, editor of the *Brazil Médico*. The secretary of the meeting was also on the editorial staff of this journal, as is also the chief of the National Department of Health, Dr. O. G. Cruz, whose efforts to eradicate plague and cholera from Rio have been so successful that the recent Latin-American Congress sent him a special vote of congratulations.

Prophylaxis of Typhoid in Western Germany.—Koch's ideas in regard to the prevention of the spread of typhoid fever by stamping out each focus have been carried out on a large scale in Alsace, Lorraine, and other western provinces. Five bacteriologic stations were organized at various points. The superintendents of these stations, with other specialists and physicians of the region, met at Berlin, June 29, to ascertain what had been learned and accomplished in regard to the eradication of the foci of typhoid fever. The assemblage was unanimous in decreeing that persons exhibiting typhoid bacilli in the urine or stools, with or without other symptoms or in apparent perfect health, should be isolated, if convenient, and if not, at least their excreta should be disinfected, as also their bed and body linen. The assemblage included R. Koch, Gaffky, Gruber of Munich, and Forster of Strasburg.

The Pasteur Monument.—Near the Invalides at Paris the imposing statue of Pasteur was unveiled July 16, in the presence of the president of the republic, the entire diplomatic corps, and representatives from various scientific societies almost the world around, including Behring and van Ermengem. The statue represents Pasteur seated and musing. The base of the solid shaft is encircled by a group of large figures representing Humanity holding out the suffering child for Pasteur to take, while other figures represent the agriculturist, the farmer, the shepherd, each basking in peaceful serenity, as Pasteur has conquered the cattle and plant diseases that used to decimate their flocks and vines. It seems that there are almost as many statues of Pasteur in France and as many streets named after him as after Washington in this country. This last monument, however, is on a much more elaborate scale than any of the rest. The *Journal de Méd. de Paris*, by the way, states that Pasteur, with all his ardor for science, had "a frugal mind," and accumulated a large fortune. It

hints that he retained an interest in certain filters and industrial processes based on his researches. This exchange has always scoffed at bacteriology and been antagonistic to serotherapy in any form, and prophesies that the day will come when these statues to Pasteur will be a laughing stock. The sarcastic editorial comments on the present enthusiasm for serums, etc., are always entertaining reading.

Correspondence.

Diabetes Mellitus—With a New Method of Prognosis.

NEW YORK CITY, July 26, 1904.

To the Editor:—It seems to be a rather precipitous course to base "a new method of prognosis" on the study of one case of a certain pathologic condition. I allude to the abstract of a report on a case of diabetes mellitus, read at the recent session of the American Medical Association, and published in toto in the issue of THE JOURNAL, July 23.

The authors of the communication, Mandel and Lusk, having found a constant dextrose-nitrogen ratio of 3.65:1 in a diabetic, in a state of "low acidosis," while under a meat-fat regimen, which "ratio was uninfluenced by fat digestion or fat metabolism," "formulate a new clinical method of prognosis in diabetes, using the D:N ratio for this purpose." They contend that the occurrence of 3.65 grams dextrose to 1 gram nitrogen in the second day's urine after institution of a "meat-fat diet" signifies "a complete intolerance for carbohydrates and probably a quickly fatal outcome." Analyzing these statements, we find that:

1. The prescribed diet was not a purely meat-fat regimen inasmuch as "rich cream" containing over 4 per cent. of convertible lactose was permitted in the dietary.

2. No figures are given as to the proportion of ingested and egested nitrogen.

3. The authors have adduced no proof as to the origin of all the urinary dextrose and nitrogen from the ingested material. Again, the abstract as read and published is entirely too meager to afford a thorough insight into the authors' contention.

HEINRICH STERN.

X-Ray in Leukemia and Pseudoleukemia.

DENVER, July 28, 1904.

To the Editor:—I note Dr. Pusey's letter in THE JOURNAL, July 23, in which he refers to some early reports of the Roentgen ray treatment of pseudo-leukemia. In this connection permit me to state that in June, 1902, long previous to Senn's report, I reported the case of Mrs. A. (my Case No. 22) to the Colorado State Medical Society, and the article containing this was soon after published in the *Denver Medical Times*. In August, 1902, I treated J. B. (my Case No. 81), a most remarkable example of the effect of x-rays in pseudo-leukemia. This was reported to the Denver Clinical and Pathological Society about that time, also included in an article read before the Rocky Mountain Interstate Medical Association at Salt Lake City, August, 1903, included in the transactions of that society, and but recently published in the *New York Medical Journal*. This article also reported four other cases of Hodgkin's disease treated by x-ray.

G. H. STOVER, M.D.

Intestinal Suture with the Gelatin Cylinder.

TOLEDO, OHIO, July 27, 1904.

To the Editor:—The *New York Medical Journal*, March 12, 1904, speaks of the work of Heppeler with the gelatin cylinder as a support during the suturing of the cut ends of the bowel. Five years ago, while surgeon for the Edward Ford Plate Glass Co. I did a great deal of experimental work with soluble cylinders for intestinal supports during the suturing. I found the simple gelatin capsule as satisfactory as any. I add my small indorsement to this method as a simple and rapid way of holding the bowel ends, for quick suturing of the same.

C. M. HARPSTER.