The Manufacture of Antitoxins.

CHICAGO, ILL., March 2, 1898.

To the Editor:—I have just read the paragraph entitled "The New York City Board of Health" that appeared on page 506 of your issue of February 26.

Permit me to point out that ever since January, 1895, diphtheria antitoxin . . . could have been purchased in New York City at a cost never exceeding \$2 per vial of 10 c.c., representing 1500 units, or approximately \$6 per ounce. The pretension, therefore, of the Board of Health, that the cost of diphtheria antitoxin at the drug store was \$12 per ounce, and therefore excessive, is absolutely without foundation. Please note that diphtheria antitoxin . . . is recognized all over the country as a standard product. Practically none has been sold for consumption in New York City itself owing to the competition of the Board of Health. But that does not alter the fact that our diphtheria antitoxin has always been obtainable in New York City at the price named, and in fresh and serviceable condition. The New York City Board of Health must be in a very precarious condition to resort to such unfortunate misstatements in its attempt to retain its power to manufacture medicinal or other preparations in competition with private parties. I do not believe that the spirit of paternalism which now pervades certain public bodies is a correct echo of public sentiment, and appearances indicate that it will be nipped in the bud. A sign of the times is the reduction by the Senate, to \$25,000, of the appropriation of \$100,000 applied for by the Department of Agriculture for the manufacture and supply of hog cholera vaccine, the reduced appropriation being made with the stipulation that the serum manufactured should be utilized exclusively for official experiments, and none of it should be gratuitously distributed. We enclose herewith copy of an extract taken from the *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter* of New York City, which may possibly be of interest to you.

Yours very truly,
HAROLD SORBY,
Manager Pasteur Vaccine Co.

THE SENATE DISAPPROVES THE DISTRIBUTION OF SERUM.

Readers of the *Reporter* will be pleased to learn that the strong protests made by the manufacturers of pharmaceutical preparations and others against the proposition of the Secretary of Agriculture to spend \$100,000 in the manufacture and gratuitous distribution of 2,000,000 doses of hog serum has been disapproved by the Senate. Unless the House fails to agree with the Senate's action, which is not likely, this effort at paternalism will come to naught.

The Secretary of Agriculture has been making a series of experiments through the Bureau of Animal Industry which has resulted in demonstrating to the satisfaction of the experts that a serum can be produced which is very effective against hog cholera. The Bureau officials became so enthusiastic over the results achieved that they induced the Secretary to appear before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and request an appropriation of \$100,000 for the manufacture of serum to be gratuitously distributed through the medium of the agricultural experiment stations and colleges. The editorial comment upon this action which appeared in the *Reporter* last week greatly stimulated protests against this action, and such a flood of remonstrances reached the chairman of the committee and his colleagues in the Senate as to convince the framers of the agricultural appropriation bill that public sentiment was strongly opposed to the Secretary's project. After several conferences Senator Allison, who is chairman of the Appropriation Committee, decided to reduce the sum requested by the Secretary to \$25,000, and to concede it only with the distinct understanding that but a limited quantity of the serum should be manufactured and that it should be utilized exclusively for official experiments and none of it should be gratuitously distributed.

The officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry are greatly disappointed at the failure of their plan to distribute the serum widely, but Senator Allison is confident that the real function of the Bureau, which is to determine by experiment the efficacy of remedies for animal diseases, will not be circumscribed as the result of the reduction, while at the same time the Department will be relieved of the criticisms which have been directed against a proposed invasion of a legitimate field of private enterprise.

The victory of the trade is of far greater significance than the mere prevention of the gratuitous distribution of hog serum. It is in effect a recognition on the part of the Senate of the impropriety of the Government's entering into competition with private firms in any line of industry, and there is no doubt that the precedent thus established will be of great value to the business community hereafter.—(From *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*, Feb. 14, 1898.)

Opinions Differ.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Feb. 21, 1898.

To the Editor:—I notice in the *JOURNAL* of January 15 what I consider a very unfair criticism of the excellent work on surgical diagnosis and treatment by J. W. MacDonald, M.D.

1. The reviewer states that "the book might be compressed into two-thirds its size" and that "the author has lost the art of condensation." In the face of the fact that the author is a speaker and a writer of rare ability both on medical and other subjects, the statement raises a question in the mind of the reader as to whether the assertion is not biased by selfish motives.

2. That "it is foggy in regard to tumors." If there is any fog about tumors it must exist in the mind of the reviewer, as many able authors entertain the same views as set forth in this work.

3. That "gas and the electric headlight has superseded the student's lamp as a means of examining the larynx." The idea of the student's lamp may appear ridiculous to a resident of Chicago but there are doctors outside of the Windy City who are not prejudiced by the lantern and cow who are where electricity and gas are not obtainable.

4. The typographic error on page 579 in regard to the word Adams is admitted. The author is not the only one suffering from a "deviated" letter, as I notice the reviewer has a new way of spelling W. B. Saunders.

A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION.

A Prescription Corrected.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., March 3, 1898.

To the Editor:—By an inadvertency an error has found its way into the report of my clinical lecture published in the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* for Feb. 26, 1898. On page 464, in the second column, the second prescription should read as follows:

R Pepsini glyceriti ʒv. 147 85
Acidi hydrochlorici diluti. m. cc. 12 32
Sig.—Two teaspoonfuls after each meal.

In reading the proof furnished me that portion which contained the above prescription was missing. I have been informed by your printer that two galley slips had stuck together and that the prescription, together with the adjoining portion of text was concealed.

JOHN V. SHOEMAKER, M.D.

Wants Statistics of Homeopathy.

CHICAGO, March 1, 1898.

To the Editor:—It would be interesting and valuable to know, according to reliable statistics, the number of homeopathic physicians, colleges and hospitals in the United States at the present time as compared to the number ten, twenty and thirty years ago.

If it seems wise to the editor, I think a statement of such statistics would be very generally appreciated.

Very respectfully, R. S. PORTER, M.D.

ASSOCIATION NEWS.

Prospective Attendance at the Denver Meeting.

DENVER, COL., Feb. 28, 1898.

To the Editor:—I send you this communication in the way of a preliminary report relative to the prospective attendance

at the forthcoming Denver Meeting, thinking that it may be of interest to the members of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. As Chairman of the Local Committee upon State Medical Societies, I have opened a correspondence with the officers of all the State societies with a view to awakening a degree of interest, thereby securing as large and enthusiastic delegations as possible, and to ascertaining in reply an approximate estimate of the probable attendance from each State. The answers thus far received have been, upon the whole, extremely gratifying, and from the assurances contained indicate the development of a decided general interest with a growing spirit of enthusiasm relative to the next annual meeting. The exhibition of this feeling may be reasonably expected to result in a large and representative gathering of medical men in Denver next June. That the meeting will be a brilliant success in point of numbers and character of attendance is already practically assured by the expressions received from all parts of the country. The larger number of replies have been necessarily of a purely general nature. The fact that a majority of the State societies do not hold their annual meetings until April or May renders it impossible for their officers to form any adequate estimate as to the size of the delegations from the respective States. In but few instances have delegates been appointed as yet. Those whose names I have been able to secure have been corresponded with. Some have replied, signifying their intention to come and bring others. Nearly all the officers of the various State societies are taking energetic measures to create an active interest among their fellows, and predict in behalf of their local organizations a generous representation. The names of the many delegates will be furnished me as soon as the appointments have been made, and they will be communicated at once. Thus far general estimates have been received from thirteen States, representing a total of 618. While from the remaining States no official information has been received upon which to base provisional opinions as to the relative size of delegations, still sufficient data of a general nature have been secured to justify the conclusion that the estimate quoted for the thirteen States will be a fair proportionate index of the whole. From this it seems safe to assume that the attendance at the next meeting will equal that of any previous year. If the voluntary expressions of those in authority in the various States may be considered as reflecting to any degree the sentiments of the individual members it is apparent that a strong feeling of interest and hearty enthusiasm is already aroused. Did space permit I would quote brief extracts from the many letters received, evincing the most earnest sympathy and active co-operation. The earnest work undertaken in some of the societies should stimulate all to renewed efforts toward insuring the success of the next annual meeting. Very sincerely yours,

S. G. BONNEY, M.D.

NECROLOGY.

THOMAS B. BAILEY, M.D., appointed to the U. S. Navy from New York in 1889, and made a Passed Assistant Surgeon in 1892, died in Washington, D. C., February 24, aged 34 years. He had been on the China Station but was lately ordered home and to duty at the Washington Navy Yard.

WILLIAM S. TORREY, M.D., New York University, 1884, died in Brooklyn, N. Y., after a long illness, in his 36th year, on March 4. His remains were interred at his former home in Honesdale, Pa.

JOHN C. SHERMAN, M.D., in charge of the U. S. Marine Hospital at Ogdensburg, N. Y., died in New York city March 2, aged 48 years.

DEATHS ABROAD.—Dr. Jennie Taylor Gordon, wife of a missionary in Africa and niece of Bishop William Taylor of the M. E. Church, died at Malange Angola, West Africa, Decem-

ber 29. She was known as "Dr. Jennie" in the foreign missions and during her long service abroad acquired an enviable reputation for skill. Her parents are residents of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

JAMES J. STEPHENS, M.D., College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, 1846, died from apoplexy at his home in Tappan, N. Y., March 3, in his 75th year. He was born in New York city but came to Tappan forty-three years ago and for forty of these he was owner of the Major André prison house, from which he religiously excluded the public. After this structure was blown down in part on November 2 last, the next owner rebuilt it and made its inspection free. Many stories are told of Dr. Stephens' skill and eccentricity.

WILEY H. WILSON, M.D., Lake Geneva, Wis., February 27, of cerebral hemorrhage. He was born at La Grange, Ga., Jan. 6, 1842, and when the war broke out he was a student at the University of Athens, which he left at the age of 19 to join the Southern army in West Virginia, where he served on General Rhodes' staff in Stonewall Jackson's brigade. He was with General Lee at the surrender at Appomattox courthouse. After the war he studied medicine in Louisville, Ky. In 1880 he moved to Chicago, where he practiced his profession five years, and then moved to Lake Geneva.

ROBERT A. WHEATON, M.D., St. Paul, Minn., February 25, aged 30 years. The Doctor was graduated from Harvard in 1889, clinical instructor in surgery at the University of Minnesota, a member of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, the Minnesota State Medical Society, Massachusetts Medical Society and Association of Military Surgeons of the National Guard.

THOMAS JEFFERSON MOORE, M.D., Richmond, Va., February 24, aged 58 years. Dr. Moore was a native of North Carolina, served as a member of the Senate of that State, was for four years a member of the Virginia State Medical Examining Board, a member of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and honorary member of the North Carolina Medical Society, and filled the chair of clinical medicine in the University College of Medicine at Richmond.

FRANCIS G. HENRY, M.D., Kansas City, Mo., February 26. He was born in Paris, Ky., in 1828, and about 1860 moved to Missouri. He entered the Confederate army and accompanied Price in his first raid. He also served under General Shelby. During Governor Crittenden's administration, Dr. Henry was appointed superintendent of the asylum for criminal insane at Fulton, Mo., he being the first to hold that position.

JOHN PARKER MAYNARD, M.D., Harvard, 1848, of Dedham, Mass., February 26, aged 72 years. He was born in Boston, Mass., was a graduate of Yale and in 1847 the discoverer of collodion, which he soon utilized in surgery.

JOHN YALE, M.D., Yale 1841, died in Beloit, Kan., February 26. He was a descendant of the founder of Yale College and born in New Hartford, Conn., April 2, 1820. Most of his life was passed in Ware, Mass.

SAMUEL AUGDEN HILLS, M.D., Yale 1846, died at his residence in New York city after a long illness, February 26, aged 76 years. During his professional life he was an apothecary, a coroner, lumber merchant and a realty investor, having accumulated considerable wealth.

A. RUSSELL STRACHAN, M.D., died at the St. Cloud Hotel, New York city, March 1, as the result of injuries received a week before in an effort to save a woman and child from being run over by a Broadway cable car. Both were rescued. He however thought but little of his hurt and did not immediately take to his bed. He was born in Scotland, was graduated from the Victoria University, Ontario, 1861, and long ago was connected with Luke's Hospital New York. An obituary note credits him with being the author of various medical works and of many magazine contributions.

CLARENCE LEWIS, M.D., aged 24 years died in San Francisco,