the advances already made in lunacy legislation shall not be put back. The poor lunatic has been the most sedulously robbed of all the classes of our communities. County officials and asylum trustees have had the almost unwatched control of the "crazy monies" and the least possible portions thereof that could be prevented found their way to the support and amelioration of the weak and defenceless pauper lunatic. Who was there in the community who could be plundered more readily? But now the times are different, and medical associations and other charity defense societies are organized and keenly alive to the perils of the poor, the insane and the unprotected. A great deal of volunteered watchfulness is being exercised as to the disposition sought to be made of charitable funds.

Surgery of Abdominal Wounds.—Dr. T. H. Manley contributes to the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, October 8, a paragraph referring to the traumatic surgical work of Dr. Postempski at the Consolation Hospital, at Rome. He has had fourteen abdominal sections to perform in consequence of penetrating wounds of the peritoneum. In all these cases the wound was inflicted by a blade, mostly the stiletto. All of these patients recovered. The hospital in question is centrally located in the Piazza del Forum and in the institution which receives a very large share of the traumatic surgical cases of that city.

The Yale Students' Infirmary.—The ladies of New York City and vicinity have been organized for some months past on behalf of the Yale students, and their better care when sick. An infirmary of small size is their objective point, and the committee seek to raise $25,000. Subscriptions to the amount of $22,000 are said to have been promised on or before the last week in December, 1890.

A Memorial Hospital at Johnstown, Pa.—On February 4 the dedication of the Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital took place with suitable religious and historical addresses. Drs. Forbes and Pancoast were present from Philadelphia as representatives of the medical profession of a city that exerted itself nobly to mitigate the sufferings caused by one of the most disastrous calamities of modern times. After the ceremonial of presenting the new hospital to the Board of Citizen Trustees, an inspection of the building was made by the visitors. The cost of construction and furnishing has been defrayed by the State Flood Commission, and amounted to over $65,000. This expenditure forms a fitting close to the work of the Commission, which was entrusted with the disposal of not less than $3,750,000 for the relief of the desolated valley.

Incidents of the Influenza Epidemic.—Recent information from the Continent shows that Charcot and Billroth have, about the same time, been victims of the epidemic. At the time that Billroth was ill, there were four or five others, professors in the University, who were prevented by the same cause from going on with their lectures or clinics. The lunatic colony at Gheel has had many cases of la grippe, many deaths and many prostrating sequelæ.

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

Public Health Department.
Wissinoming, Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 1, 1892.
Hon. M. S. Quay, United States Senator:

My Dear Sir.—Permit me, as a member of the American Medical Association, to invite your special attention to the Bill introduced by Senator Sherman, providing for a National Bureau of Health, and the appointment of a Cabinet Secretary of State Medicine.

The importance of the measure can hardly be overestimated. You know what vaccination has done towards protection against small-pox (even for your own constituents in Philadelphia), and what quarantine does in protecting us against yellow fever and similar invasions. Now, sir, our profession, and especially members of the American Medical Association, stand prepared to prove that the dreadful disease, diphtheria, and many similarly destructive pestilences, only exist in our midst because concerted action, properly directed, cannot be enforced. With the appointment of a National Secretary, we could be assured of useful application of all the important information concerning epidemic diseases already acquired, while the system of thorough investigation of all such subjects will then, and only then, become mastered.

We are now like an army of good soldiers without a general. Very truly yours,

N. Roe Bradner, M.D.

United States Senate, Washington, D.C., Feb. 5, 1892.

N. Roe Bradner, M.D., Wissinoming, Philadelphia, Pa.:

My Dear Sir.—Your letter of the 1st inst. is at hand. The proposition contemplated in Senator Sherman's bill—to form a National Board of Health—is, in my opinion, an excellent one, and I intend to support any legislation looking to its adoption. I am very truly yours,

M. S. Quay.

To the Editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association:

The Adams County (Ills.) Medical Society, on February 8, presented the following testimonials to its senior member:

"Last week occurred the fiftieth anniversary of the doctorate of Dr. Francis Drude, an honored member and past-president of the society, he having graduated from the University of Berlijn on the second day of February, 1842.

"When fifty years of active work in a profession so exacting and laborious and subject to so much risk and exposure as that of medicine still finds a man in the full possession of his mental vigor and retaining his early enthusiasm in scientific pursuits, the event is sufficiently rare and interesting to command especial notice.

"The Adams County Medical Society therefore gladly avails itself of the privilege of congratulating Dr. Drude upon reaching his golden anniversary, and to express and record the hope that it may yet for many years enjoy his presence, draw from the stores of wisdom garnered by his long experience, and catch new inspiration from his steadfast example."

From the society, Dr. Joseph Robbins then presented a beautifully engraved gold-mounted cane, and in an eloquent