Gardiner, Maine, and another of \$2,500 was sent to defray the expense of the collections.

The exercises at the Hospital were concluded in the evening by a reception at Miss Garrett's elegant residence, corner Monument and Cathedral St., which was attended by the distinguished visitors and by the *élite* of the city. By the way, Miss Garrett's great liberality in connection with this movement deserves to be known and appreciated. Recognizing the importance of making the offer to the Trustees at this time, owing to the greater likelihood of its being accepted now than later on, when she saw that the project lagged owing to the doubt in the minds of ladies as to its acceptance, she increased her subscription from \$10,000 to \$48,000, thus completing the sum of \$100,000 which was the minimum amount determined on as presentable to the Trustees. The Trustees of the Woman's Medical College of Baltimore have had occasion to experience Miss Garrett's interest and liberality in less degree on several occasions. Besides donations to their institution, which were most opportune, it was to her that the senior class of the institution have owed the enjoyment of equal privileges in the clinical advantages of the Lying-in Hospital of the University of Maryland with the undergraduates of that school.

The writer had the pleasure of attending the inaugural meeting, at the Johns Hopkins Hospital on November 10, of the "Historical Club," an association which meets monthly, and whose object is to stimulate an interest in the subject of the history of medicine and medical literature. Prof. Welch is the President, and the following papers have been presented. By Prof. Welch: 1. Introductory Remarks concerning the Study of the History of Medicine. 2. Writers and Books on the History of Medicine. By Prof. Osler: American Medical Classics. 1. A Discourse upon the Institution of Medical Schools in America, by John Morgan, Philadelphia, 1765; 2. Introductory to the Course of Clinical Instruction at the Pennsylvania Hospital, by Thomas Bond. By Prof. Kelly: Notes upon Early Gynecological Works. By Dr. John N. Mackenzie: Some Points in the Ancient History of Rhinoscopy. By Dr. Finney: Sketch of John Archer, M.B., the first Graduate in Medicine in the United States. The two meetings were well attended and the proceedings highly interesting.

I learn that the Pathological and Bacteriological Department, under Prof. Welch, is so crowded that additional accommodations have had to be provided for those attending it. Bacteriology is especially popular, nearly forty students or physicians engaged in special research, being enrolled in that division. Dr. A. C. Abbott has been sent to Berlin as the representative of the Hospital, to investigate Koch's late discoveries.

Weekly clinics are now held at the Hospital by

Professors Osler, Halstead and Kelly, to which the physicians of Baltimore and Maryland are "cordially invited." At Dr. Osler's last clinic an interesting case was presented. It was one of dysentery in which the *amœba coli* was found in both stools and sputa. This was considered to justify the diagnosis of abscess of the liver, although there were no local signs of that affection.

Dr. John R. Quinan, a well-known physician of this city, died suddenly November 11 of apoplexy. He was an ex-President of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, and a local antiquarian of some note. His most important work was "The Medical Annals of Baltimore from 1608 to 1880," prepared by direction of the State Society as a memorial of the League's Centennial Anniversary of the founding of Baltimore. It is a storehouse of information relating to the profession of this State, but owing to enforced haste of publication, it abounds with errors which detract much from its value and from the credit due the author, who devoted a large amount of time and labor to its preparation.

The Medical and Chirurgical Faculty held an interesting semi-annual meeting at Cambridge, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, on November 11 and 12. A large number of members went down on the boat from this city, but I understand the attendance and participation of the local profession was not large or encouraging. The programme was a varied and interesting one, embracing papers by Drs. Atkinson, Michael, Mackenzie, Ashby, Winslow, Earle, Merrick, Brinton, Gardner, Harlan, Preston, Woods, Chunn, Chambers, Rohé and Canfield. Under the energetic Presidency of Dr. Thos. A. Ashby the old society is showing signs of redoubled vigor; there have been large accessions lately to its membership, and several thousand dollars have been contributed towards a medical building.

We are at last to have a morgue. The City Council has appropriated \$4,000 and a site has been selected near the harbor. The building will be 18 x 40 feet and two stories high. We have long been sadly in need of such an institution.

E. F. C.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

"The Wisdom of Koch."

To the Editor:—It seems to me that THE JOURNAL, as the official mouth-piece of the largest, and oldest, large organized body of physicians in America, should be more conservative in its utterances than appears in the current number editorially under the above caption.

In the first place, there is an objection to extravagant praise of Prof. Koch in connection with his new treatment of lupus and tuberculosis, be-

cause, as he himself admits, its value is so far an unknown quantity. The profession has in the past properly refused, and should now and in the future refuse, to endorse any method which has not had the test of time, and in numerous hands. Prof. Koch has made wonderful and valuable contributions to scientific medicine, but in this new field of endeavor, the logical outgrowth of his pathological discoveries, we must not, simply on the basis of his success in pathological research, follow him blindly. When a case of tuberculosis treated by his method, after the lapse of one year, remains well, there will be time enough to prepare the laurel crown.

In the second place, there is an objection to extravagant praise of Dr. Koch in this connection, because, disguise it as we may, it still remains disagreeably patent that the failure to tell now what the medicament is and how it is made, when apparently sufficient data have been collected to warrant its use upon the human subject, and *the acceptance of a fee therefor*, smacks too much of quackery. In plain terms, it is vaunting, using and selling a secret nostrum.

So long as Prof. Koch confined himself to experimental use of his new remedy upon the lower animals, or to a limited and reasonable degree, upon the human subject, *without fee*, no one would dispute his moral and legal right to keep his knowledge to himself. But when once a *fee has been accepted* for the service, and a willingness expressed to serve others on the same terms, the experimental plea must be abandoned. And in the light of rumors of extortion, and charges by those always uncharitable to medical men, that nothing will be revealed until the few interested have made fortunes, further silence not only gives rise to further suspicion of Prof. Koch's professional honesty, but casts, by inference, discredit upon the medical profession at large.

Finally, there is an objection to extravagant praise of Prof. Koch in this connection, because, outside of the question of value and outside of the suggestion of quackery, this praise gives an undesirable boom to empiricism in medicine. Only a few days ago it was estimated that two thousand physicians had already come from foreign parts to Berlin to observe Prof. Koch's treatment, and by to-day's paper I see that in spite of the poor satisfaction experienced by those already there, the list of daily arrivals shows no decrease. Think of it! Thousands of physicians—Germans, Austrians, Italians, Russians, English and Americans (and possibly those of other nations), flocking to Berlin to see Prof. Koch's treatment, scrambling for places, and offering fabulous prices for a few drops of the liquid whose composition they do not know and cannot find out! And when asked why they want it, reply, "Because *Koch thinks* it will cure tuberculosis!" When has the practice of medicine witnessed such a spectacle? And THE JOUR-

NAL'S praise of Koch's wisdom is helping to swell this crowd!

Hitherto the great fault of American physicians in the eyes of our European brethren has been this very thing—empiricism. In fact, we have been charged with having a monopoly of it. Now, of course, by this concourse of all nations in Berlin, we know that this charge is false, and I submit it to you—would it not be better, in view of all this, for THE JOURNAL, instead of encouraging, to caution its supporters? commending to their careful consideration the refusal of the French customs officer to allow the passage of the remedy sent to M. Pasteur, because the Government of his country (an excellent law) prohibited the admission of such things without a declaration of their composition.

By all means let us leave the further cultivation of empiricism to our German and English brethren, now that it has sprouted so vigorously among them.

H. B. YOUNG, M.D.

Burlington, Ia., November 29, 1890.

Euphorbia Pilulifera for Asthma.

To the Editor:—Quite recently, at the suggestion of my friend Dr. E. T. Sabal, of Jacksonville, Florida, I have used the remedy above named, *euphorbia pilulifera*, for the relief of a most stubborn case of hereditary asthma, and the results are such that I feel warranted in calling the attention of the profession to it, and also making an effort to compile some statistics which will be of service to us in the future. It is a popular domestic remedy in Australia, where it is found as a common roadside weed, and has been used for the relief of coughs, colds and other like disturbances of the air-passages, but more especially in the treatment of asthma. Dr. Sabal advised me that he had used it in a number of very marked cases which had resisted the usual treatment in Florida, and he thought it might prove equally valuable in our northern climate. The only case in which I have employed it this far, is one which is developed apparently from an ordinary cold, and has proven most intractable during foggy weather, or when the relative humidity was great. Heretofore, under the treatment of other physicians, in this country and in England, and Australia, the attacks would last from one to three weeks, and even then he would require the liberal use of hypodermatics of morphine and atropine. In the course of twenty-four hours after the first symptoms appeared, the malady would be fully developed, and the patient, a young man, would be compelled to sit up until the disease had exhausted itself. With the exception of myself, all his previous attendants had used ipecac freely, and he had come to dread the attacks on account of the nausea produced by the treatment. By the cautious employment of