To physicians who visit Sweden I can most warmly recommend that a few days be spent in the hospitals of the modern and thriving city of Stockholm, especially if you have some knowledge of German. Prof. Akermann, I believe, is one of the brightest men for his years I have ever heard teach or seen operate as a surgeon. Dr. Josephson does a large amount of abdominal work and is a great advocate of using buried silk sutures in closing up abdominal wounds, thus, he believes, avoiding the hernias that often follow these operations.

The surgeons here (I found the same thing in several other places) have abandoned catgut as a ligature, and are using fine silk in its stead, claiming that thereby they avoid suppuration and, if the silk used be fine, that it is absorbed without the manifestation of any local irritation.

Everywhere in Scotland, in Scandinavia, in Russia, in Turkey, in Greece and in Austria, I have found typhoid prevalent, and have been trying to do some missionary work as a Woodbridgeite, with what success I will tell the readers of the JOURNAL in my next.

W. S. CALDWELL, M.D.

The Leprosy Question.

Translated from the French in *Janus* (July and August, 1897).

COPENHAGEN, June 26, 1897.

To the Editor (of *Janus*):—I see today with a certain displeasure that three of the publications, as numerous as they are little important, of Dr. Albert S. Ashmead, have been inserted in the sixth issue of your paper (May and June).

One of these publications, that entitled "Leprosy Overcome by Isolation in the Middle Ages," is absolutely useless. The author is pleased in this to attribute to me an opinion which I have never professed, *vide*, that the isolation of the lepers would be useless. *One will never find that opinion expressed in my works.* I am for isolation according to the Norwegian system, that is, the isolation of the diseased, who are incapable of taking care of and supporting themselves, and whose presence among other persons constitutes a real danger for the well. But I am not an admirer of the barbarians of the Middle Ages, who burned and imprisoned with horrible ceremonies the poor lepers, separating them from their families and their friends.

I know that Mr. Ashmead fights for the wholesale isolation of the lepers (even the 100,000 lepers in the English Indies), but I have the firm conviction that he will remain isolated himself with such a demand. The hygiene of our days does not act in the same manner as that of the Middle Ages.

Will you "kindly" ask Mr. Ashmead to quote in future the passages from my writings to which he refers, in order to avoid writing perfectly useless notes and attributing to me opinions which I do not have. I avail myself of this same occasion to interdict him, the copying without quotation of source, of photographs of my Icelandic lepers. These photographs were mine. I paid for them with two voyages, both perilous and disagreeable. Mr. Ashmead has inserted one of my photographs on the third page of his last pamphlet in the *Magazine of Medicine*, April, 1897, where he publishes, always without authorization of the correspondents, a number of letters, of which his own contains trifles, without interest, and also rude abuse of the leprologists of London, of Asmauer Hansen and myself. You will no doubt excuse me if I wish no longer to dispute with Mr. Ashmead, agree, Mr. Editor, the assurance of my perfect consideration.

DR. EHLERS.

NEW YORK, DEC. 6, 1897.

To the Editor of *Janus*, Amsterdam, Netherlands.—Dr. Ehlers says (*Janus*, July and August) I attribute to him opinions which he never professed.

Whether or not Dr. Ehlers stands for isolation was not the point at issue; it was, should isolation as a principle be promulgated by the Berlin Lepra-Conference? That was the important question. He stood an obstacle to our obtaining

official delegates, claiming that governments *had always neglected the holy name of hygiene*, le saint nom de l'hygiène, in all countries and in all times. *It was not, in his opinion, the way that leads to the goal to try to stir up the governments. It is a congress which takes place between known leprologists and not a congress of leprology.* Our goal was not so much a congress of leprologists, which I have taken the liberty to call very frequently a congress for talk only. What we wanted with absolute singleness of purpose was a congress to take practical measures against a disease against which talk, disputations of leprologists, etc., had availed nothing, that is to do everything possible, in order to obtain universal measures of isolation. Therefore it was our object to stir up the governments. Although he does not speak against isolation in his works, his acts in opposing the call upon governments to take part in the Congress were against isolation. Some shadow of this government representation was nevertheless obtained, but it was due to *our* initiative, to the fight we made, not to Dr. Ehlers, and not even to Asmauer Hansen. Especially was it not due to the non-contagion clique of London.

One word as to the photograph of which he interdicts the publication without quotation of source. Dr. Ehlers would seem to like such pleasant expressions as *interdict*, though he reproaches me with being *grossier*: but it is only fair to attribute the strength of his expressions to his imperfect knowledge of the delicacy of the French language. I published a photograph of an Icelandic leper woman, with his permission, giving him due credit in "Suppression and Prevention of Leprosy." I copied it as an instance of melancholia of leprosy, which is my own interpretation of it, in the *Magazine of Medicine* subsequently. His name did not appear in that second publication; it was simply forgotten. There is certainly in this no justification for such tremendous trumpeting about the world of the wrong done to his photograph, which he had paid for by two perilous and disagreeable voyages. I think it would be a useful exercise for Dr. Ehlers if he tried to insert the following truth into his brain: Dr. Ashmead had a perfect right to use subsequently without any ceremony a photograph which he had once published in the regular way, with permission and quotation.

Let me say to Dr. Ehlers that the mixed system of isolation of Norway has driven to the United States 17,000 Norwegian emigrants of *leprous families*, and thus served only to transfer the leper problem from Norway to America. *International government laws*, which I stand for, would prevent that.

If he considers this duly and seriously he will surely find that it is (though he says my publications are *inutiles*) more important, more useful to meditate upon than anything he has ever written in any of his works, published after such perilous and disagreeable voyages.

With a pleasant felicity, which is rare with Dr. Ehlers, he observes that it is I who shall be *isolated with my demand*, not so entirely isolated, however; for, as I said above, there was, in the presence of some government representatives, at Berlin something like a foreshadowing of international leper law.

We Americans are interested, I mean directly, not in our own leprosy, for we have none; we are interested in the leprosy of Norway, Japan, China, Hawaii and South America, to prevent the disease from being brought by emigration, which would easily be done by international arrangements, by stirring up the different governments. Even from the 159 lepers which Dr. Ehlers so successfully saw in Iceland, four have since escaped to this country, and almost while Dr. Ehlers gave himself up to the charms of the congressional, leprologist, non-international conference, these four contaminated Manitoba!

ALBERT S. ASHMEAD, M.D.

License in Germany.

TOLEDO, OHIO, Dec. 10, 1897.

To the Editor:—Dr. Blech's answer to the inquiry as to the admission to the practice of medicine in Germany is not quite correct.

To be matriculated as a student of medicine, one must be a