Dr. H. T. Tillotson: The question of embalming fluid which has been brought up to-night reminds me of a case I had a year ago. A young lady at a party partook of cake, and some time during the night she began vomiting, and had colicky pains, with other symptoms of poisoning, and in about thirty hours she died. I took it upon myself to look after the cake question, and while I was out the undertaker was called in, and embalmed the body. I called him up by telephone to ascertain why he did it so soon, and his excuse was that he was asked by the family to do so. I wanted to know why he did not wait for the death certificate, and he said he never had and never would wait for a death certificate. I inquired of other undertakers, and they claimed the same thing, they will embalm the body as soon as the friends ask them to do so, and will not wait for a death certificate.

Dr. A. W. Baer: About a year ago I was called to see a young man who had taken poison, and as I was called in a great hurry, I neglected to take a stomach pump. I asked for hot water and mustard, but they did not have any, and I sent to a saloon for some mustard. The young man, in the meantime, laid in a comatose condition. I mixed the water and mustard, and attempted to get it down him, but was unable to do so, and thought I had a corpse on my hands. I asked one of the men present to get it down if he could, and I reached for my hypodermic needle, which had some nitroglycerine in it. Without taking very much care, I inserted the needle in the muscles underneath the arm, and the man jerked the arm away from the needle himself, and it took four men to hold him on the bed, to keep him from getting up and killing the doctor. I then succeeded in getting the mustard down. He acknowledged that he took a white powder, which I thought was arsenic, but it was the effect of the nitroglycerine on the comatose condition I wished to call attention to. I think the condition was due to arsenic, and not to morphine, for it was an hour after he had taken the drug, and if he had taken the dose he did of morphine, it would have had a different effect on him.

Dr. Daniel T. Nelson, in closing the discussion, said: I will only speak of one or two points. Dr. Hektoen spoke, I think, truthfully of the contents of the stomach and intestines looking like rice-water discharges, which are familiar to all physicians in cholera, and the appearance of the patient, it seems to me, is so much like cholera as to suggest the question propounded by Dr. Wescott as to whether the arsenic does not affect profoundly the nervous system, as the cholera poison does. I am inclined to believe with Dr. Wescott that, primarily, the coma and convulsions are due to the direct effect of the poison upon the nerve centers of the brain and spinal

cord, and hence the paralysis in chronic cases; but possibly, subsequently, before death, there may be convulsions of a uremic character.

In the autopsies described by Dr. Hektoen, one point seemed to me especially characteristic and interesting. The thirst and dryness of the throat and fauces before death have been noted by all; and yet, after death, there is little to be seen of pathological change there, and I believe this is true also in cholera.

One suggestion as to an antidote. Dyalized iron is perhaps as efficient as the wet hydrate of sesquioxide; it is certainly very convenient, and can usually be found in the drug stores; can be used without preparation, and can be given in any dose safely.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The science of Forensic medicine at the present time demands such exactness and thoroughness in the post-mortem examinations of medico-legal cases as to always require greater facilities than those presented in a private dwelling or common undertaking establishment; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Medico-Legal Society of Chicago, that the coroner of Cook County be urged to send all bodies requiring a post mortem examination to the new county morgue, and that such facilities as the importance of the work demands be arranged for in the morgue building, so as to make it as complete a medico-legal institution as possible under the circumstances. And further:

WHEREAS, There are no restrictions upon the sale of arsenic, which often facilitates the commission of crime; and

WHEREAS, The use of embalming fluid containing arsenic by undertakers obscures cases of poisoning by this drug, is not necessary, and causes the miscarriage of justice, it is

Resolved, That the sale of arsenic should be strictly regulated by law, and the use of arsenical embalming fluids should be entirely prohibited.

ARCHIBALD CHURCH, M.D.,
Secretary.

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., NOV. 10, 1891.

Editor The Journal, Chicago, Ill.:

Desirous of calling the attention of the medical profession to the anomalous condition of things existing at this place, I ask the publication in THE JOURNAL of such facts as are given herewith:

This town is sustained *entirely* by visitors coming here in search of health or pleasure, mostly the former. There is literally nothing else. The facility with which the invalid can be gulled on his arrival here is startlingly wonderful, and opens a very fine field for sharpers, who are nominally in the profession, aided by ropers who meet the victims on the railroad trains and beguile them first to a boarding house and bath house, and finally to the doctor's office to be robbed and maltreated.

This evil has assumed such outrageous proportions, that the few practitioners here who take the code for

their guide, are compelled in self-defense to cast about for some method by which they may hope for success in at least mitigating the evil, if not abating the nuisance entirely, both in the interests of humanity and their own.

The condition is "*sui generis*." There is no other place like this. And if we keep within the letter and spirit of the code, we see ourselves daily robbed, to be at last driven out of the field to give place to *other unfortunate ethical men* tempted by the apparently fine prospect, or to be succeeded by the vampires who are already so numerous here. We succeeded in getting passed, by the last Legislature, a law providing for the revocation of license for certain offenses, among which are the subsidizing hotels, and the employment of drummers. The constitutionality of this law is still to be tested; but if it stands, it is very difficult to get cases properly proved up before the medical board which has the jurisdiction, because of the fact that the witnesses—invalid visitors—who are generally desirous of avoiding the notoriety and detention consequent on a summons to court, to say nothing of the possible delay involved—generally prefer to pocket their wrath and lose their money rather than expose themselves to further vexation and the threats of these ropers, who hesitate at nothing.

At one time we circulated a poster on the incoming trains, at considerable expense, but without success, for reasons which would occupy too much space to detail, but which will be given in future if desired.

We cannot fight these men through the press without laying ourselves liable to the charge of advertising ourselves, and we don't know what to do.

Is it possible to put these matters before the profession, with the view and purpose of eliciting discussion? and perhaps some legislation at the next meeting of the American Medical Association, which would allow us to show through the press, or a paper of our own, the actually existing condition, thereby not only sustaining legitimate medicine, but keeping large numbers of invalids out of the hands of irresponsible men.

Did it not occupy too much space, I might add to the foregoing the fact that we have here an organized and recognized medical society; that there are quite a number of doctors here who have heretofore put themselves outside the pale, but who have quit the objectionable methods and desire to be recognized, and as to whom there exists some difference of opinion among members of the Society, arising from the very peculiar condition here (as I said *sui generis*); that the irregulars largely outnumber the regulars, being at present *about* as 16 or 18 to 35 or 45, the figures constantly changing.

A very amusing and interesting article might be written by one disposed to give facts as to the *methods* of these bunko men, and one which would also contain much pathos.

To day I met a man who failed to get a license from the local board, inquiring about an office. As I suppose, he has been to some of the "back counties," where he found an examining board less uncompromising. If I'm correct, this shows the inadequacy of existing law to protect the people and the profession.

Very respectfully, JOHN H. GAINES, M.D.

Case of Supernumerary Mamma.

To the Editor:—The subject of this article is one of some interest; and especially so in this particular case, on account of the size, and as well as the fact, that this mamma, or milk tumor, did not develop until the fifth gestation; and there was no sign of it before that time, so the patient states.

We find quite a number of cases of supernumerary mammae on record, but none with a history like this so far as I know. Bruce has examined 4,000 persons and finds the deformity to be 1.54 per cent., and he says the axillary prolongations are not infrequent and may be mistaken for lymphatic glands; also states the left side is the most common locality of these deformities.

Evy Williams, col., age 39. Married; had six children. Health good. Three years ago, she was delivered of a child and at that time noticed a lump under the left arm pit, which was soft, movable, and not painful or tender on pressure or sore, as she states.

One month after her delivery she noticed this lump was increasing in size, and it reached the size of a hen egg, and remained so for two years, which was the length of time she nursed the child. After this it seemed to disappear until her next delivery, or three weeks before her confinement, it was about the size of a hen's egg, and continued to grow and was somewhat painful.

The child is now two months old, and you can see in this photo. the size of this extra mamma. You can also see it has no nipple and there is no discharge of milk; but it is somewhat soft and full of milk. I have compared the secretion from this tumor to the milk from the breast, and it is identical, the fat globules are easily made out with microscope. I have made two examinations of this under the microscope.

L. G. HARDMAN.

Harmony Grave, Ga., Nov. 9, 1891.