common decency, let us prescribe its ingredients by their proper names, knowing what we are giving our patients. The ingredients for such a mixture would cost not to exceed 50 cents a pound, while this wonderful remedy is listed at \$1.25, wholesale, per bottle of about 5 ounces. Surely if this combination will do what its promoters claim for it, it is an act of philanthropy to put it within the reach of the poorest patient. Finally, if we must prescribe nostrums, let us at least be patriotic and confine ourselves to home-made fakes, of which there is surely no lack at the present time.

Nostrum Advertisements in Official Organs of Fraternal Societies.

While the official organs of fraternal organizations have not been as lax in their supervision of advertising matter as have the religious papers, many of them have been, and still are, open to serious criticism. Dr. J. W. Robinson, Mackay, Idaho, took occasion to call the attention of the editor of the *Modern Woodman* (the official organ of the Modern Woodmen of America) to the nature of some of the advertisements carried in this, the official, journal of the organization to which he belongs. The editor, in a courteous reply to Dr. Robinson, said, in part:

It affords me pleasure to report that at the September session of the executive council I recommended that the manager of advertising be instructed to make no new contracts with advertisers of "patent medicines," and that all existing contracts be canceled, to take effect not later than the issue for December, 1907. The executive council unanimously adopted my recommendation. After December, therefore, there will be no "patent medicine" advertisements of any kind inserted in the official paper. If at any time any advertisement appears in the official paper which you know to be a fraud, or in any way objectionable, I will esteem it a favor if you will notify me.

This is one more example of what may be accomplished by the subscriber to any journal which carries objectionable advertisements, and it also exemplifies the fact that the majority of editors and business managers have an evident desire to place the editorial and advertising departments on the same ethical plane. It emphasizes the fact that it lies largely within the subscriber's power to determine the class of advertising he shall be obliged to read; this being so, it is plain to see where the responsibility lies.

Physicians and Pharmacists.

The recent banquet given by some Philadelphia pharmacists to the physicians of their district is an indication that the pharmacists are awake to the importance of bringing the two professions together. The idea of dining together is an excellent one, as the impression of fraternity and good fellowship thereby produced is likely to be lasting even if the fine speeches made by the after-dinner speakers are forgotten. Physicians and pharmacists may thus come to know each other better and will be slower to credit the idea that the two occupations, whether regarded as trades or professions, are antagonistic.

"Patent Medicines" in British Columbia.

That our northern neighbors are fully awake to the need of reform in the use of proprietary and "patent medicines" is evidenced by the action taken at the eighth annual meeting of the British Columbia Medical Association held at Victoria, B. C., in August last. The following resolutions were passed and ordered transmitted to the Canadian Medical Association:

WHEREAS, It is morally incumbent on every medical man to protect the public against disease and sickness as far as possible; and WHEREAS, The so-called "patent medicines" are sold without restriction throughout this province, thereby constituting a menace to the public health; and

WHEREAS, Proprietary medicines, the composition of which are not known, are prescribed by regular physicians to a certain extent; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the British Columbia Medical Association place itself on record as being in favor of the enactment of suitable laws for the protection of the public against "patent medicines;" and

Resolved, That it appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to institute such measures, or support them if introduced by the legislature; and

Resolved, That it strongly disapprove of the unscientific and possibly dangerous practice of prescribing the secret proprietary medicines; and

Resolved, That the British Columbia Medical Council be re-

quested to communicate with all physicians of the province, drawing their attention to the undesirability of prescribing these secret proprietary medicines.

The British Columbia Medical Association also asked that the Canadian Medical Association cooperate with it in getting the Dominion Government to take action in this matter.

Correspondence

"Spontaneous Arterial Degeneration in Rabbits."

CHICAGO, Nov. 7, 1907.

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL, Oct. 5, 1907, is an article by Dr. Miles and an editorial on the above subject. The suggestion is made in these articles that the various experimental vascular changes that have been produced during the past four years may be in reality of spontaneous origin. Jores' exhaustive dissertations on arteriosclerosis which appeared just previous to Josué's successful experimental work, reviews the various attempts to produce arterial changes in animals and especially in rabbits, and the total number of animals carefully examined must have been large and yet in not one of these were they able to detect vascular changes. In 1900 Crofton reported atheroma in two rabbits as a result of injections with hypoxanthin. Fisher, while working with adrenalin arteriosclerosis, reports that in some poorly nourished animals he found slight spontaneous changes resembling those produced by adrenalin. Ophüls, also, recently reported spontaneous atheroma in one rabbit. Beyond this, so far as I have been able to determine, no one had detected changes of this sort until Dr. Miles and Dr. Johnstone in the report referred to. Reviewing the experimental work of the past few years, we find that there have been many unsuccessful attempts to produce arterial changes, as Adler's work with an infusion of tobacco, Josué with very small doses of nicotin, Lissauer with caffeine, Jores with adrenalin by mouth, Erb by intraperitoneal injection of adrenalin, Josué, Kulbs and others by subcutaneous injections of adrenalin, although they all were able to produce degeneration by adrenalin intravenously. Kulbs and Ziegler each found arterial changes in every animal given adrenalin intravenously. Pearce and Stanton have described the process of healing that occurs after adrenalin has been discontinued. We have the 100 normal animals, examined by Loeb and referred to by Miles, in which no changes were found, and Meronescu's series of 300 normal rabbits without evidences of changes, although his adrenalin rabbits showed constant characteristic lesions. With this evidence it seems highly improbable that the experimental lesions could have been of spontaneous origin. Dr. Miles' report on the series of untreated animals and those receiving adrenalin subcutaneously is not conclusive, as all investigators agree that it is practically impossible to produce arterial changes by subcutaneous injections of adrenalin. The findings of Drs. Miles and Johnstone are extremely interesting, as they show that certain groups of rabbits are extremely liable to arterial changes. It would be very instructive to determine under what conditions these animals had been kept. That such spontaneous changes are general has not been proved, the weight of evidence being decidedly to the contrary.

JOSEPH L. MILLER, M.D.

Triacol and the Alpers Chemical Company.

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 4, 1907.

To the Editor:—About a year ago THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association criticized the action of the Alpers Chemical Company for advertising its product, Triacol, in a number of magazines, and I was personally held responsible for such action. Neither the Alpers Chemical Company nor myself knew of this criticism until recently, when at the meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association my attention was called to it. This is the reason for the long delay in correcting some erroneous statements made in THE JOURNAL. The advertisements in question were made through a misunderstanding between an advertising agent and an employé of the company who had temporary charge of these matters during the manager's absence in Europe. As soon as the error

was detected steps were taken to stop the respective advertisements and they have long ago disappeared from the magazines. While the Alpers Chemical Company regrets this error, due to an overzealous employé, it wishes to state most emphatically that no change of policy was ever contemplated, and that its product, Triacol, was, and always will be, a strictly ethical preparation, being recommended to the medical profession alone.

As to myself, I have not influenced the policy of the Alpers Chemical Company for years, and knew nothing of this whole matter till last September. The efforts of my professional life have largely been devoted to the advancement of ethical relations between medicine and pharmacy, and I have never for a moment changed my position.

WILLIAM C. ALPERS.

A Warning Not Heeded.

DALLAS, TEXAS, Nov. 12, 1907.

To the Editor:—From the fact that there is in Texas a huge conspiracy against all young medical school I hereby warn you not to mention in any of your publications including the A. M. A. JOURNAL any unfavorable mention of the College of Phys. & Surg., Dallas. Kindly refuse to mention this school in any fill further notice. I warn you under penalty of the law.

ARTHUR C. BELL, Dean.

[See page 1795, item headed "Texas Board Withdraws Recognition."—Ed.]

Association News

THE ARCHIVES OF INTERNAL MEDICINE.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATION.

At the Atlantic City session of the American Medical Association a petition signed by many clinicians was presented to the Board of Trustees, suggesting the publication of a journal devoted to scientific clinical medicine, and stating that there was no journal in the English language covering the field outlined. In response to this request the Board of Trustees at once appointed a committee, which reported to the Board at its October meeting, approving the proposal and outlining a general plan for such a publication. The Board adopted the report, and asked the following to act as the editorial board: Joseph L. Miller, Chicago; Richard C. Cabot, Boston; George Dock, Ann Arbor, Mich.; David L. Edsall, Philadelphia; Theodore C. Janeway, New York City, and W. S. Thayer, Baltimore. The tenure of office of the editors is to be six years, but they are so appointed that the term of one will expire each year.

The first number of the *Archives of Internal Medicine* will be issued about Jan. 15, 1908. Subsequent numbers will follow at intervals as material permits, but monthly issue is anticipated. Two volumes will be published annually, each to consist of not less than 600 pages. The *Archives* will contain no advertisements.

Mechanically and typographically, the *Archives of Internal Medicine* will be of the highest order, with special attention given to the reproduction of illustrations.

Authors who so desire will be given 250 complimentary reprints.

For the present the subscription price will be \$4 a year—two volumes—or 50 cents a copy. As an introductory offer a reduction of one dollar will be made to members and subscribers to THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association. It is very desirable that those who wish the *Archives* should send in their names—by postal card or letter—as early as is convenient, so that a general idea of the number to print may be obtained before Jan. 1, 1908. Address: "*Archives of Internal Medicine*, 103 Dearborn Avenue, Chicago, Ill."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY EDITORIAL BOARD.

The increasing amount of scientific work in internal medicine in this country has led to the need of a journal devoted

to the subject. We are glad to announce, therefore, that the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association has taken steps for the founding of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*. It will be devoted to the publication of original studies on clinical medicine carried out at the bedside or in the laboratory, and of physiological, pathological and pharmacological researches that have a bearing on the nature, diagnosis or treatment of disease. Scholarly, thorough work, well abreast of the present position of medical science, is what is desired for the *Archives of Internal Medicine*. All technical details and protocols necessary to prove the thesis will be welcome, although unnecessary details are to be avoided. Articles that summarize what is already known on a certain topic and then add something new, represent the class of communications that are desired, as well as short original communications on matters relating to internal medicine. Articles which do not deal with internal medicine, but take up the purely technical or special problems of cognate branches of medicine, such as surgery, obstetrics, pathology, chemistry, physiology, etc., will not be considered appropriate. It is not intended that the *Archives* shall contain editorials or abstracts, but occasional analytical reviews of books and of important subjects will appear.

The undersigned desire the hearty cooperation of all those interested in scientific medicine in the United States.

All communications relating to the editorial part of the journal should be addressed to Dr. Joseph L. Miller, 100 State Street, Chicago.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH L. MILLER.

DAVID L. EDSALL,

RICHARD C. CABOT,

THEODORE C. JANEWAY,

GEORGE DOCK,

W. S. THAYER,

Editorial Board.

Miscellany

THE GREAT AMERICAN FRAUD.

Nostrum Advertisements in the Religious Press—Influences for Reform.

In a recent issue of THE JOURNAL¹ we gave a rather full report of *Collier's* arraignment of the religious press for the character of the advertising it carried. In a later issue of the same magazine² Samuel Hopkins Adams discusses the influences for reform, foremost among which he places the clean religious papers. He says:

"The very fact that they maintain themselves without taking blood-money is at once an accusation against their less consistent compeers and a refutation of the plea that without the money of quackery a religious paper can not be self-supporting.

THE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATES.

"On this important point, here is testimony from the *Christian Advocate* of Nashville, Tenn. The *Christian Advocate* is under the general direction of the publishing house of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The editor, Rev. G. B. Winton, is made responsible for the advertising also, which is the proper and logical system, and has full powers to reject any objectionable matter. His rule is a simple one: 'That as far as possible advertisements of "patent medicines" be eliminated, and that if any are admitted they must be of articles free from narcotics, and an undue proportion of alcohol, and such as make no spurious claims as to what the medicines will accomplish.' Is the Nashville *Christian Advocate*, therefore, tottering on the brink of beggary? An inquiry from the management of the paper indicates the reverse:

"At present, when we are more rigid in the scrutiny of advertising than ever before, and when we have three regular editors on our staff instead of two, as has been customary, the paper is self-sustaining."

"Moreover, the Nashville *Christian Advocate* pays for its contributions, which few religious journals do. It would seem, therefore, to be, like its denominational brother, the New York *Christian Advocate*, an illustration of how an intelligent and

1. Aug. 10, 1907, 510-511.

2. *Collier's*, Oct. 12, 1907.