Some day men may have become sufficiently enlightened to submit to necessary legislation and restrictions on this, and cognate subjects; but, until they do, the foul stream of syphilis will continue to meander, hither and thither, and whithersoever it will through the world of life; will poison its springs, will wither even its fairest blooms, and destroy its richest fruits without selection and without mercy.

By the cultivation of bacteriology and cognate sciences, by a deeper and more profound acquaintance with natural phenomena and laws, I can foreshadow in my mind the time when the whole range of zymotic and exanthematous diseases will have been subdued and conquered; when the seeds of each will have been isolated, and so studied that their individuality will be recognizable; the soils in which they will grow, and those in which they will lie sterile will be known and appreciated, and be brought under cultivation by the hands of the medical men of the day; when the methods of dealing with them will be such that they may be reduced to harmless quantities; and when, by the spread of sanitary science, the whole human race may be protected from their evil influences.

It will not be in our day that these mighty triumphs will be won, but our successors will undoubtedly achieve them; and the time will certainly come when the kingdom of disease will be so closely narrowed down that only the necessary accompaniments of the changes and vicissitudes of natural laws, the evils attendant upon the wilful disobedience of those laws, the innumerable accidents to which life and limb must be for ever liable, and the inherent defects and deficiencies in the harmonious working of the parts of a machine so exquisitely and delicately constructed as is the frail body which, for a time, we inhabit will be the only kingdom in which the professors of medicine and surgery will be called upon to exercise their sway. Then will the victory of our science be complete, and the day will have come when the world will be called upon to acknowledge that the labors of the physician and surgeon, patient, enduring, untiring, as they have been through all time, have not been in vain, and have reached their final consummation.

DR. JAMES L. CABELL, Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of Virginia, died at Overton, Va., on the 13th, aged 76. He was graduated in medicine at the University of Maryland, in 1834. During the war he had charge of the Confederate military hospital in Charlottesville. He was Chairman of the National Sanitary Conference at Washington during the yellow fever epidemic at Memphis, and subsequently was President of the National Board of Health.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

INTERNATIONAL COMITY IN STATE MEDICINE.

Read in the Section of State Medicine at the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, June 25, 1889.

BY JOHN B. HAMILTON, M.D., LL.D.,

SUPERVISING-SURGEON-GENERAL U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.

Mr. President:—The last quarantine convention held in this country was held in Montgomery, Ala., March 5, 6, and 7, 1889, pursuant to a resolution of the Alabama Legislature. The conference was largely attended, and although called for the purpose of considering quarantine alone, the meeting resulted in the formulation of some well known principles of sanitation, but which, not having been codified, were, nevertheless, in a somewhat nebulous state. Among other propositions the conference agreed to the following, which I here recite as the text of this paper:

"Resolved, That this conference is of opinion that it is a duty devolving on all Nations to take measures to eradicate any plague centre from their territory, and that the existence of such plague centres is a menace to all other Nations, and that our State Department be requested to take measures through proper diplomatic channels for the conveyance of this opinion to the Governments deemed obnoxious to the opinion as herein expressed."

The medical part of International law is a recent creation. The International sanitary conferences that have been held in Paris, Constantinople, Vienna, Washington, and Rome, have successively been the arenas where these questions have been discussed, and so far there has been little result, if we except the International quarantine maintained at the Suez Canal by the French, and the Consular system of notification inaugurated by the United States. At these conferences, with all the conservatism underlying the action of diplomatic representatives, the views of the technical delegates, while not always fully adopted, have not seemed too radical, and the mere fact of the calling together of these conferences, is itself proof that Nations are now acting in formal recognition of the necessity of a new chapter in the International Sanitary Code.

I speak of the "International law," although it is well known that "there is no legislative or judicial authority, recognized by all Nations, which determines the law that regulates the reciprocal relations of States." (Wheaton.) But there are interpretations of the *jus gentium* which, by common acceptance and long usage, have been the guiding principles on which diplomatic disputes have been settled for many years.

Without entering upon the question of whether it is strictly correct to use the term *law* as applicable to mere rules governing the conduct of independent Nations with one another, we may at least admit that there are certain moral obliga-

tions resulting from natural rights, which Nations at peace respect and observe. Mr. Madison defines International law as "consisting of those rules of conduct which reason deduces as consonant to justice, from the nature of the society existing among independent Nations, with such definitions and modifications as may be established by general consent." (Wheaton.)

"To this favor, then, we come at last" in discussing this question, that whatever is done or admitted, is by general consent. Most of the terms of the International law have been settled by treaty.

One of the *absolute* rights of independent States resting upon general consent and common usage, and acknowledged as the most important, is the right of self-preservation. "This right," says Wheaton, "necessarily involves all other incidental rights, which are essential as means to give effect to the principal end." It follows logically, that preservation from epidemics falls within the rule, and a Nation should have a right to view as equal acts of hostility the sending out of a piratical craft, or of a ship infected with yellow fever, cholera or other contagious disease. That division of commerce known as the carrying trade, is too impatient of sanitary restraint, it should be stripped of its power to convey disease, and by International treaties the carrying trade may be so regulated. There need be no interference with shipping. Modern machinery of disinfection has taken the place of "detention." But even this regulation will not go to the root of the evil, for the existence of a plague centre in any country is a constant menace, and the carrying of fomites may sometimes escape the utmost vigilance.

Therefore it seems that the *jus gentium* requires that any Nation, having within its territory an agency capable of destroying or injuring another, suppress that agency. This is not a strained interpretation, for we may find the general principles recognized in the restrictions placed upon a neutral. A neutral must restrain from fitting out, or sailing of armed cruisers of belligerents, and must prevent their territory from being made the base of belligerent operations; not only that, but a reasonable vigilance must be exercised. (Wharton, *International Law Digest*.) And further it was claimed, and the claim has been admitted, that it is the duty of the sovereign of any country to restrain agencies likely to injure another country, such as by predatory Indians or other marauders, or mob injuries. (Wharton, *loc. cit.*) The diversion or obstruction of navigable waters without the consent of the injured Nation, has also been successfully claimed as a violation of International rights. Why then should not the claim be insisted upon, that under the absolute right of self-preservation, we shall demand of certain other countries that reasonable diligence in suppressing small-pox, yellow fever and chol-

era be displayed by those Nations owning disease-breeding foyers.

There has been a great increase in the comity between Nations in regard to sanitary matters in the past few years. The first step is clearly that inaugurated by the Vienna Conference of 1874, where the danger of cholera importation having been recognized, by general consent, the French Government took charge of the quarantine service at the southern entrance to the Suez Canal, since which time cholera has not passed beyond Egypt. It is true that cholera appeared in Europe in 1883, but it came by a different route, *i. e.*, by French troop-ships from Tonkin, and the disease was thence disseminated to Spain, Italy, Sicily, Sardinia and South America.

The next important step in International sanitation, I am glad to say, was taken by our own country. Dr. John C. Peters, of New York, in a letter written to the late Surgeon-General Woodworth shortly after a visit to Havana, wrote that "an international public sentiment should be created against the filthy and careless ways of the authorities, which cause so much suffering and death among the mercantile and public navies of the whole world." (Woodworth on Quarantine, *Transactions International Medical Congress of Philadelphia*, 1876, p. 1068.) That officer (Jno. M. Woodworth) in a report to Congress in 1874, had invited attention of Congress to the necessity for "prompt and authoritative information to threatened ports of the United States of the shipment of passengers or goods from a cholera infected district," and he suggested that the Consular officers of the United States should be instructed to place themselves in communication with the health authorities of their respective localities, and to advise promptly, by cable, of the outbreak of cholera, and the sailing and destination of any vessels carrying passengers and goods from infected districts. This suggestion, so eminently practical, was finally adopted by Congress in the law of April 29, 1878, which now forms the basis of our existing Consular sanitary regulations. Through the kindness of the Honorable the Secretary of State, and the courtesy of the efficient chief of the Consular Bureau, I was permitted to recast the last revision of the sanitary portion of the Consular regulations (1888), and I am of opinion that our regulations on this subject are at present in advance of those of any other country. The *Bureau Consultatif d'Hygiene*, of Paris, in its last report, invited the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to these regulations, and recommended that the French Consuls receive similar instructions. Our government has gone much further in this direction. We have employed a competent inspector in Havana since 1879, who is attached to the Consulate as medical adviser, and who makes personal inspection of the shipping bound to the United States, and who

attends to the sanitary welfare of American vessels in that port. When the cholera became epidemic in Europe in 1883, by my recommendation, a medical inspector was attached to the Consulates at Liverpool, London, Havre, Bremen, Hamburg, Marseilles and Naples, who, under instructions from the Bureau, made careful inspections of emigrants, baggage and merchandise bound to the United States. No government has yet protested against these inspections except Spain, which country took exception to the continued presence of the United States Inspector in Havana, but that powerful country withdrew the objection when it was pointed out that, without such preliminary inspection, under municipal regulations of our ports, the carrying fleet would be greatly delayed, and at some ports shut out altogether during the summer months.

Our National quarantine laws are now much more rigid than heretofore, and year by year the stations are becoming more completely equipped, but much trouble would be saved, and danger avoided, by enforcing the international rule now asked, as a right.

What excuse can exist for apathy in countries where yellow fever and cholera are respectively epidemic? It is not a friendly act for a Nation having a contagion-breeding centre, to fail in the exercise of such vigilance as might prevent the emanation of the disease germs.

I again quote Woodworth (*loc. cit.*). "The endemic homes of cholera and yellow fever are the fields which give the greatest promise of satisfactory results to well directed and energetic sanitary measures, and to this end an international sentiment should be awakened, so strong as to compel the careless and offending people to employ rational means of prevention."

In the volume by Dr. E. C. Wendt, of New York, on "Asiatic Cholera," New York, 1885, I wrote concerning this subject: "A National Government . . . during its existence as a Government, must assume certain responsibilities, among which are those affecting the physical and pecuniary welfare of the people. A Government must, under the natural limitations of human rights, take proper and necessary measures to protect its subjects against pestilence or famine by such wise and prudent acts as the necessities of the time may seem to warrant. A failure so to do would subject such a Government in the eyes of all civilized peoples to just condemnation, and as the safety of Nations makes them mutually inter-dependent, whether they will it or not, so the safety of a particular Nation is dependent upon the physical integrity of its several municipalities, as well as upon the physical integrity of its neighbors. . . . Modern Nations have tacitly recognized these responsibilities, and endeavored to meet them by 'international conferences,' rarely, however, with any

view to mutual concession. At each 'conference' thus far held, the commercial phase of the question has, although purposely kept in the background, seemed to be paramount, and although there has been substantial agreement, first as to the responsibility of any Nation having epidemic disease within its borders that such disease should not be allowed through negligence to afflict its neighbor; and second as to the desirability of a synchronous united effort looking toward final eradication; yet the moment the details by which these desirable ends were to be attained were discussed, harmony was at an end, and so it has happened that each Nation for itself assumes its own responsibilities towards its citizens, and allows its neighbor to adopt in turn such independent measures as in its judgment the occasion warrants.

It is, therefore, clear that international public sentiment must be created to compel these Nations owning cholera and yellow fever centres to no longer afflict the globe by their apathy and indifference to the general welfare.

"Who can doubt that if the action of Russia in respect of the plague, and of the United States in regard to yellow fever, were imitated by Great Britain, Burmah and China, as regards cholera; Spain, Brazil, Central America, Mexico, the West Indies, and the occidental littoral of Africa, in regard to yellow fever, that those two diseases would speedily disappear from the earth."

There is then a plain duty before this great Association which embodies the combined medical wisdom of the United States, and that is to lend its powerful aid toward the humanitarian side of this great question. Let this Section reaffirm the Montgomery resolution, and commend it for adoption by the Association. Its object is to enhance the welfare of humanity, and its accomplishment is within the bounds of possibility.

Washington, D. C., June 15, 1889.

THE METHOD OF FEEDING IN CASES OF INTUBATION OF THE LARYNX BY POSITION, HEAD DOWNWARD, ON AN INCLINED PLANE.

BY W. E. CASSELBERRY, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA AND OF THERAPEUTICS AND OF
LARYNGOLOGY AND RHINOLOGY IN THE CHICAGO MED-
ICAL COLLEGE; LARYNGOLOGIST TO THE SOUTH
SIDE FREE DISPENSARY, CHICAGO.

Since the presentation to the Chicago Medical Society, in September last, of the preliminary verbal report on this method of feeding as just then devised by me, the subject has assumed such importance, and the method, as modified through further experience, has been so successfully practiced within a limited circle, that it is desirable to widely promulgate the device in its perfected and modified aspects.

The unavoidable entrance of food material into