Correspondence

A Carelessly Edited Medical Journal.

MESCALERO, N. M., June 22, 1906.

To the Editor:—I admire THE JOURNAL for its unremitting fight for the correction of abuses in the medical profession. I am writing now to call attention to one that has not hitherto been taken up, but concerning which I feel a few words editorially would not be amiss.

There is a monthly medical journal which comes to my desk regularly but whose stay there is short, as it generally finds its way promptly to the waste basket. This is not because my time is so limited that I can not spend an hour now and then with medical journals, but because, after looking over the first copy or two and finding it so carelessly gotten up, filled with misprints, misspelled words, etc., I have not the slightest respect for it as an authority or as a disseminator of medical news or the thoughts of its contributors. The last number I glanced over rather cursorily and my eye fell on some errors so flagrant that I felt they should not be allowed to go by unnoticed. Some of them might be typographical (which are rarely excusable in a first-class journal), but, alas, others I fear, can not be justly charged to the poor typesetter. These may seem small matters, but nevertheless are to the periodical what cleanliness and good manners are to the individual. The physician who is careless about his linen, fails to keep his finger nails clean, and who is ill-mannered, can not hope to gain the respect of his fellows, either professional or lay, and they will show very little regard for his professional opinions, which in nine cases out of ten will not be entitled to much regard. So with the publication that is carelessly gotten up. As such a physician as above described would be a blot on the profession as a whole, so such a medical journal is. Far better it would be if it were not published at all. Such a publication as the one I mention is a disgrace to our profession. I am sending it to you under separate cover; it is a type of a large number of medical journals. Some of the most flagrant errors are marked in the copy sent to you.

R. I. MCNEIL.

Use of Inferior X-Ray Tubes.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., June 16, 1906.

To the Editor:—At the Boston session of the American Medical Association one of the things that struck me very forcibly was the number of good exhibits of x-ray apparatus made almost useless through inferior tubes. Apparatus that *per se* seemed powerful enough, developed no clear-cut image on the screen. In many instances complicated foreign tubes were being exploited. These were expensive and seemed to me only remarkable for the amount of inverse discharge they recorded. I have for some time been using Green and Bauer American-made tubes and find them much better than the imported Gundelach tubes I formerly employed. Why go past a good American product for an inferior foreign make? I agree very heartily with Dr. Piffard in his paper concerning the value of tubes that these (tube No. 2 being G. & B.) are remarkable not only as to lack of inverse but for rapidity and definition. Dealers should give attention to so important a matter and not spend all their energy in the construction of the apparatus only to spoil the ultimate result by tubes that do not work in harmony with their product.

H. W. VAN ALLEN, M.D.

Empyema of the Pleura.

NORWOOD, LA., June 17, 1906.

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL, June 16, page 1895, I notice that Braun, in his lecture, says that he does not think that simple puncture and aspiration will effect a cure in all cases of empyema in the pleura, and that he favors resection, etc.

Regarding aspiration, he is certainly right, for it will not cure in any case. If the diagnosis is made promptly, i. e., within the first week or ten days, a simple incision under local anesthesia in the intercostal space with drainage will cure without the necessity of resection.

Of course, if days or weeks elapse after the formation of pus, or if the patient is tuberculous, even after resection the prognosis is unfavorable.

The aspirating needle has only one place here, and that is for purpose of diagnosis, after which the needle should not be withdrawn, but should be left *in situ* as a guide for the knife, which should immediately follow. This is a point to be especially remembered by young operators..

W. F. HAGAMAN, M.D.

Marriages

W. H. CARLTON, M.D., to Miss Susie Lucas, both of Athens, Ga., recently.

A. J. EVANS, M.D., to Miss Jessie Merritt of Pleasantville, Iowa, June 27.

HOWARD EASTMAN, M.D., to Miss Mamie C. Miller, both of Baltimore, June 19.

RICHARD F. BIGGER, M.D., to Mrs. Anna M. Hill, both of Indianapolis, June 19.

GLENN W. ADAMS, M.D., Cincinnati, to Ida E. Scott of Harrison, Ohio, June 20.

LESTER R. COBB, M.D., Belleville, Mich., to Mrs. Carrie Moon at Detroit, June 13.

JOHN A. FRITCHEY, M.D., to Miss Ella Shoop, both of Harrisburg, Pa., June 24.

FAYETTE DUNLAP, M.D., Danville, Ky., to Miss Lin Lithgow of Louisville, June 20.

ELMER J. HAGENBAUGH, M.D., to Miss Ella Conn, both of Elkhart, Ind., May 16.

P. J. BRANNON, M.D., to Miss Genevieve Anne Lally, both of Denison, Iowa, June 19.

WILL H. LESTER, M.D., Greenville, Mich., to Miss Effie Carroll of Detroit, June 23.

HUGO W. AUFWASSER, M.D., to Miss Stella Blau, both of Covington, Ky., June 21.

WILLIAM H. DITMARS, M.D., to Miss Anna Green, both of Jonesville, Mich., June 10.

JAMES LEWIS FLEMING, M.D., Chicago, to Miss May Ormsby, Dougherty, Iowa, June 20.

LEONARD H. BUSSEN, M.D., to Miss Anna Brady, both of Valley City, N. D., June 20.

CHARLES BERTRAM ENSOR, M.D., to Miss Francis C. Bennett, both of Baltimore, June 18.

WILLIAM ALLEN ETHERIDGE, M.D., to Miss Annie C. Voelker, both of Baltimore, June 27.

JOSEPH W. HOLLAND, M.D., to Miss Pearl Huntington Robins, both of Baltimore, June 20.

RICHARD M. COGAN, M.D., Philadelphia, to Miss Maud Logee of Providence, R. I., June 21.

WALTER DEN BLEYKER, M.D., to Miss Marion Brownell, both of Kalamazoo, Mich., June 26.

ELBERT A. BING, M.D., Browns, Ill., to Miss Cora Estes Whitson of Johnsonville, Ill., June 27.

CLARENCE K. HAGGARD, M.D., Moody, Texas, to Miss Ella Baggett of Belton, Texas, recently.

VICTOR J. LAROSE, M.D., Mandan, N.D., to Miss Rose McHugh of Bismarck, N. D., June 14.

GEORGE D. BUXTON, M.D., Proctorville, Vt., to Miss Veronica Nichols of Burlington, Vt., June 14.

PRENTISS B. CLEAVES, M.D., Cherokee, Iowa, to Miss Jane Delaplaine of Tipton, Iowa, June 11.

FRANK E. CROSIER, M.D., Lebanon, Ohio, to Miss Annice Poore, at Murtry Hill, Ohio, June 7.

LUCIAN FREDERIC BLALOCK, M.D., Ocala, Fla., to Miss Irma Richardson of Atlanta, Ga., June 14.

BRUCE B. GIFFEN, M.D., St. Clairsville, W. Va., to Miss Livingston of Columbus, Ohio, June 22.

THOMAS ALPHEUS EVANS, M.D., to Miss Wilhelmina Loechler, both of Columbus, Ohio, June 27.

WALTER E. KEEHL, M.D., Battle Creek, Iowa, to Miss Sylvia Duncan of Iowa City, Iowa, June 14.

PATRICK V. CUNNINGHAM, M.D., Providence, R. I., to Miss Anna D. Hamley, at Baltimore, June 27.