mind since he wrote on leprosy in Japan, explain how the disease arises from a depravity of digestion, caused by the excessive absorption of rice. He, I suppose, is one of the *renowned* leprologists whose works are *known* to Dr. Ehlers, and it is to be hoped, for the amusement of all the scientists who will meet in Berlin, that there are still other men living who possess no less imagination than Dr. Wernich.

We do not care very much about the greater or less renown of a leprologist; this is absolutely of no account in our business. We might say that Dr. Hansen is the greatest of leprologists, because he chanced to light on the bacillus. Yet the discovery of the bacillus has not saved one human being, has not diminished the sufferings of a human creature. If a thousand leprologists, as great as Hansen, meet, they will not do more than Hansen himself has been able to do. Not any of the *known* works of the learned gentlemen can do more than the discoverer of the bacillus has been able to do. All that the greatest of leprologists has been able to do, was done by isolation, imposed by his own government, and independently of the bacillus, and *without palaver*.

ALBERT S. ASHMEAD, M.D.

P. S. In a letter dated Nov. 16, 1896, to Dr. Goldschmidt of Paris, Dr. Ehlers, the Secretary of the Berlin Leprosy Conference Committee, said "that he could assure him that Dr. Hansen had never approved the project of Dr. Ashmead, and that the latter acted without any kind of authority from the Norwegian government, and even without the formal authorization of Dr. Hansen."

In a letter to me dated Sept. 4, 1896, Dr. Hansen says: "I should best like if you and Dr. Goldschmidt alone took the task of convoking the Congress on your shoulders; but should you think it very desirable to have my name, you may use it, but on the condition that the Congress is only regarded as arranged by us. If the Congress then will meet in Bergen, I hope still that the Norwegian government will pay the business matters; the best would be, if the participating governments each paid their tribute."

"If the Congress shall not be secured without its help, the government will probably ask a credit to furnish the Congress with a secretary, local (place), for the meetings, and other matters of business."

This shows conclusively, I think, that Dr. Hansen permitted the use of his name on our provisional committee, and gave us warrant to use the name of his government.

ALBERT S. ASHMEAD, M.D.

"Independent Medical College" Mill.

TECUMSEH, MICH., Jan. 8, 1897.

To the Editor:—I inclose you what purports to be a medical journal. It certainly is the rankest thing I ever saw. Is it not likely that it is the child of the Wisconsin Eclectic Medical College? You will notice that the editor is J. Armstrong of Chicago. I have looked him up in Polk's Medical and Surgical Register of the United States, 1896, and find that he lives at 683 W. Van Buren St., but following his name is the little star that refers to the following note at the bottom of the page: "No report received in answer to inquiry regarding graduation." J. H. Randall, Ph.D., M.D., is given as associate editor, but his name does not appear at all in Polk's Register and I mistrust he is a myth. I am lead to this belief by comparing the name, with those given on page 14 in the article, "Report of Proceedings of the United States Medical Liberty League." It is stated that several persons met to organize the league in response to invitations of the faculty of the Independent Medical College, and in the proceedings the names of five M.Ds., are given, namely: J. Armstrong, Mary E. Sellen, C. K. Drumheller, A. J. Clausen, J. H. Randall. The first two are given in Polk's Register. Mary E. Sellen is or was a resident of Columbus, Ohio, and her school of practice is given as "Sci.," if any one knows what that is. The names of the other three organizers of the United States Medical Liberty League can not be found in Polk's Register anywhere in the United States.

I have no doubt that J. Armstrong and Mary E. Sellen are the prime movers and that they are the officers and members of the league. On the last page of cover is an advertisement of the Independent Medical College, which announces that "This school advocates a new and successful method of acquiring a medical education." The names of the members of the faculty are not given if there are any, but as the announcement is the baldest possible bid for the sale of diplomas without college attendance, and as the journal is avowedly opposed to all medical legislation, it is almost certain that J. Armstrong and Mary E. Sellen are "the journal," the league and the college, all in *two*. On page 16 are the opinions of doctors who have read No. 1 of the *Medical Liberty News* (this copy is No. 2) and have words of commendation for it. There are just six of them, and three of them have the suspicious and tell-tale star following their names in Polk's Register, and the names of the other three do not appear at all. The object of the "Liberty league" seems to be to organize and raise funds to oppose all medical legislation and in case any member of the league is prosecuted for illegal practice to help him with funds and prestige. On page — occurs this fine statement: "We also declare persistent and uncompromising warfare against the practice of *vivisection live animals*."

I send the pamphlet to you in the hope that you will put it into the hands of the proper officials and that they can by legal means shut up the "diploma mill" at least. Their journal and the "league" are beyond the reach of the law, I fear.

I am very respectfully yours, L. G. NORTH.

Massage.

CHICAGO, ILL., Feb. 15, 1897.

To the Editor:—In the JOURNAL, issue of Jan. 9, 1897, there appeared a part of a serial article on "Massage," written by myself, which was "to be continued." As the continuation did not appear, I wrote to you about February 12 inquiring the reason thereof and received from you the following reply:

"*Dear Doctor:*—I have your letter of February and have to say that after publishing the first part of your article we had a protest from Dr. Douglas Graham, in which he claimed that a large portion of the history of massage was taken from his book, a charge which seems to be sustained, etc."

1. Now, as a matter of fact, I did quote Dr. Douglas Graham some and wherever I did I think I gave him credit for it. I did not put his name at the end of each line, but at the end of certain articles. If I should have neglected to do this in any instance it was an oversight and I beg pardon of Dr. Graham.

2. I challenge Dr. Graham to prove that the "Ancient History of Massage" as I have written it is *entirely original with him*, and I will prove to him that there are a score of books on the subject by other authors who use language similar or like it in part. Dr. Graham can not quote ancient history and call it his own.

3. Get a number of books on any subject (medical), as surgery, for instance, and does not one author quote the other or a dozen others?

4. I do not know as I quoted Dr. Graham any more than other authors; if I did, then he ought to be proud of it.

Since when is medical literature private property?

Respectfully yours, JOHN KERCHER, M.D.

Embryonic Specimens Wanted.

BALTIMORE, MD., Feb. 20, 1897.

To the Editor:—During the last ten years I have appealed to physicians from time to time to send me the human embryos which fell into their hands, and have in this way procured some very valuable specimens. These specimens have been cut into sections, and are now being modeled and studied very carefully. Yet a number of important stages are still wanting, and I therefore ask through your columns that physicians send me any material which they may obtain.

The best method to preserve human ova is to place the unopened ovum, without handling, and as soon as possible, in strong alcohol. By this method the embryo within is well hardened for future microscopic study.

It is very injurious to wrap these delicate specimens in cotton before sending them by mail or express. A perfect method is to place the preserved specimen in a bottle filled completely with alcohol, thus imitating the condition of a *fetus in utero*. If there be no air or cotton in the bottle, it is almost impossible to injure the embryo by shaking it. Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN P. MALL,

Professor of Anatomy, Johns Hopkins University.

Spitting in School Rooms.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Feb. 4, 1897.

To the Editor:—If the numerous articles that are being published throughout the United States in the leading newspapers are true; that is, that tuberculosis is an infectious disease, and one of the most dangerous ways of spreading the disease is through the spittle, do you not think the placing of steam or hot-water pipes, coils or radiators in a school room where fifty or sixty pupils are congregated for hours, is highly unsatisfactory? The spitting upon the floor in a school room by teachers or pupils whose antecedents were infected with tuberculosis seems to us would dry, become finely powdered and, as all of the air in a room must go to the radiating surface to be reheated, would be the means of thoroughly distributing the germs of that disease. Possibly this is true of other diseases, such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, smallpox, etc. What is your opinion on the subject? Respectfully yours,

The SMEAD & WILLS WARMING AND VENTILATING CO.

The "Surfeit."

ATLANTA, GA., Feb. 14, 1897.

To the Editor:—Will the erudite editor of the JOURNAL kindly inform me what is meant by the term "surfeit," as applied to the affection to which the death of medieval monarchs was commonly ascribed? We read that Henry VIII died of "a surfeit"; was this his malady, or is it a vaguely facetious reference to his uxoriousness?

BERNARD WOLFF, M.D.

ANSWER:—Crapula (or *cræpula*). It is also *κραπυλη*, a surfeit. A disorder from something taken into the stomach, and occasionally a sickness or at least a loathing of the offending matter. It sometimes signifies a plethora from indulgence and full but improper feeding, in which case perspiration is checked and eruptions formed on the skin. It is sometimes called the *cholera accidentalis*.—Bartholomew Parr's "London Medical Dictionary," 1819.

The Various Quoted Stanza Again.

To the Editor:—Many years ago I picked up in London an old volume of medical rhymes published in the last century, and in this "God and the doctor" ran thus:

"God and the doctor we alike adore,
Only when in danger, not before,
The danger o'er both are alike required,
God is forgotten and the doctor slighted."

This is certainly another verse than any quotation so far given in the JOURNAL.

W. S. CALDWELL, M.D.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vaccination in Afghanistan.—The *Gaz. d. Osp. e d. Clin.*, January 5, states that Miss Lillias Hamilton, special physician to the Emir of Afghanistan, has succeeded in impressing upon her royal client the importance of preventive vaccination. He has ordered the necessary steps to be taken to introduce it into his domains, with Miss Hamilton in charge of the service. More than a fifth of the children there die every spring from smallpox, and the country will owe a large debt of gratitude to "Jenner's valorous proselyte," when such ravages cease.

Epidemic Icterus.—G. Mori publishes a study of an epidemic of thirty cases of icterus at Chiusi, in the *Gaz. d. Osp. e d. Clin.*, of January 10. His conclusions are that it was caused by some infective agent belonging to the same category as the microbe of malaria, and that this agent entered by the mouth and produced a duodenal gastro-enteritis. The toxic products of this infection then affected the main biliary passages, from the portal vessels to the hepatic cells, resulting in icterus.

Is Consumption Disappearing?—Dr. Arthur Ransome, of Manchester, England, thinks that "if phthisis were to continue to diminish in prevalence at the same increasing rate of decline for another thirty years it would then have entirely disappeared. The first great drop in its rate took place in the decade 1840 to 1850, about the time that serious attention began to be given to sanitary reform and especially to land drainage. It then remained scarcely reduced for about seventeen years; but from 1867 to 1894 it has been steadily on the decline. It is in this period that most of the great sanitary work has been carried out in this country." Surely here is an indication in what direction an effort should be made toward stamping out a disease which is said to carry off one-seventh of the human race. One would think insurance companies would be the first to promote a reform of this character, but they will not. Their method of covering a risk is to charge an extra rate. There is no extra rate against death from consumption.—*Medical Examiner*.

The Anti-Cholera Serum of Kitasato.—The *British Medical Journal* has an annotation regarding Kitasato's work in regard to cholera prevention, from his assistant bacteriologist, Dr. Nakagawa. The latter reports the results of the serum in one hundred and ninety-three cases. The former rate of mortality (among Japanese) has been about 70 per cent. In these cases the percentage was lowered about 20. The subsidiary results are similar to those of diphtheria antitoxin: 1. Urticaria, very common. 2. Arthralgia, observed in only eighteen cases. 3. Myalgia in six cases. The difference in prognosis, according to the time which had elapsed before coming under observation, is shown as follows: Less than eight hours, no deaths; eight to twelve, 22.2; twelve to twenty-four, 32.1; twenty-four to forty-eight, 39.7; forty-eight to seventy-two, 38.7; over seventy-two, 31.1 per cent. mortality. Three cases were observed in children under two years of age.

Cholera in England.—A note of alarm has been struck by the news that a transport with cholera on board had arrived at Plymouth Sound. It is questionable how the infection got on board, but most probably it was conveyed from Port Said by the fruit purchased there. Probably in any other country but Britain the disease would have been landed and gained ground, but here Dr. Williams, with Surgeon-Major-General Hamilton set to work and took immediate and perfect precautions. The excellence of our medical officers of health can not be overestimated. Our readers may remember that in 1892, although thirty-five cases of cholera reached these shores, it did not spread in one single instance. We do not think England will ever be again visited by such terrible epidemics as those of sixty or less years ago; the medical inspection arrangements are so perfect and our system so excellent, despite the silly people (some of them members of the medical profession) who "rush in where angels fear to tread" and advertise their stupidity by trying to create panics. Our present arrangements are not merely for infected parts, but they provide for careful watching over possible far away centers of infection. They are in every way practical and far above the extraordinary mystical performances (called "hygienic") of continental countries.—*Medical Times* (London), January 23.

The Death Rate of London in 1896.—The total number of deaths in London in 1896 was 81,721, with a rate of mortality of 18.2 per 1,000 living; the population was estimated on July 1, of