

Has he submitted any proposition to make the Marine-Hospital Bureau independent? That would seem a proper move, as by the words of the chairman, "It is not called a Department of Public Health, but is a Department of Public Health in fact." Why then seek to place the chief of the Public Health Service two removes further from departmental independence? The head of the present bureau is not now independent; if it be, as DR. COCHRAN says, the real health service, why not make its chief the chief in fact, instead of merely authorizing him to "appoint" somebody, or employ a new clerk?

There is rarely time to discuss these questions on the floor of the ASSOCIATION, especially when the report is in manuscript, and no one knows what is in it unless fortunate enough to have a front seat. The question then finds its appropriate place for discussion in the columns of the JOURNAL, and we sincerely hope that our esteemed friend, with that courtesy and tolerance that has always distinguished him, will welcome criticism and well-formed opinions from other members of the ASSOCIATION.

In conclusion we might inquire whether or not DOCTOR HIBBERD'S duly seconded motion to appoint one additional member of the committee from each State has been acted upon. That motion was surely wise, and according to the minutes it was adopted.

#### THE MEDICAL JOURNAL AND THE "READING NOTICE."

The manager of a medical journal has his troubles quite apart from those of securing leader writers. One of the most annoying and at the same time one of the most unnecessary, is the unceasing demand from those who should know better, that the reading columns of his journal shall frequently present articles descriptive and sometimes eulogistic of some pill, powder or potion. The article thus presented as a "reading notice" is usually written by some impecunious or unknown M.D., who, for a consideration or gratuitously, has furnished our advertiser with this wedge to force the journal.

The thin edge is inserted when the article is written as a scientific one. There is a phase in this matter that is not quite understood. If Editor Jones or Editor Smith shall, as many do, decline to publish the material, then the advertiser may make it a personal matter and withdraw the advertisement. This procedure, we are sorry to say, is growing more and more frequent.

Let us ask advertisers to look this matter squarely in the face. There are two sides. Editor Jones, we may say, has given much thought to this subject, and wishes his esteemed friend C. C., of Selldrugs & Co., a large and prosperous business, but he can not comply with the request of the Messrs. Selldrugs & Co. He tells them in effect that he has only advertising

space for sale in the advertising department. The scientific department of his journal, he explains, is not intended for advertisements, and in fact he has no right to sell any part of it. To do so would be an open violation of an implied contract with his readers.

The editor, as he warms up to his subject, continues: "There is still another point of view; we are carrying your advertisement, my dear friends, and we thank you very much, but our rates are low, and we think we are giving you an equivalent, why should you ask us to insert two advertisements when you pay only for one? If I send my office boy to your drug palace and buy a hundred pills, are you obliged to yield to his demand that having honestly bought the pills, he must now have a pound of bon-bons and a box of cigarettes? You would, my dear Merchant Prince, resent the impudence of the boy. Suppose now that we go ourselves, or write you a note threatening to withdraw our patronage, even to the extent of buying our next box of pills from your hated rival. You would very likely," says Editor Jones, "tell me that you sold the pills at a low price, and if you furnished anything more it would be a gift. You would perhaps say aside to your partner that the editor was coming very close to levying blackmail. I have not put the case to you," said Editor Jones, "on any sentimental grounds, as from the well-known philanthropy and public spirit of your long-established house I might easily do, but I have chosen a simple commercial standpoint and the case is only overdrawn in one particular, that is the dealer has *all* the articles for sale; in the case of the *Medical Journal*, the manager has no right to sell or give away his scientific space; that part of the journal does not belong to him for that purpose; it is actually already paid for by the subscriber."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Our Journal.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., June 7, 1896.

To the Editor:—I have just voted to move the publication office of the JOURNAL to Washington, D. C., and was actuated by the following reasons:

1. The JOURNAL is the organ of a great national Association which should know no local prejudice nor be controlled by any local body of men.

2. Any serial publication must in some measure respond to the influence of its environment, therefore, in the case of a periodical whose aims are so broad and whose spirit must be so catholic as those which the JOURNAL must display, unless it shall fail of its high mission, its seat of publication should be the most cosmopolitan possible.

3. Washington is the most cosmopolitan city in this country. It can have, from the nature of its institutions and government, no strong local prejudices.

4. It is, furthermore, the center of scientific thought as well as the national capital. The fact that it is not a commercial center fosters the scientific and literary spirit, and makes it a delightful place of residence as well as an advantageous literary workshop.

5. It has certain advantages for literary work over any other city in this country, because it contains the Congressional library, the largest general library in America, and the Surgeon-General's library (which has been rendered so available to all scientific readers by the work of Dr. Billings and his assistants). Washington contains also various other libraries, as well as museums and laboratories.

6. These advantages must in the nature of things tend to increase as time goes on, so that it is quite conceivable that, even if the publication of the JOURNAL shall be continued at Chicago for the present, it will be forced to go to Washington finally. Should this prove to be the case, it is obvious that the move had better be made now than later on.

7. The unfortunate defection from the ranks of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION bids fair to heal in good time. This promise of better things has been brought about greatly through the powerful influence of the JOURNAL. If the JOURNAL shall be moved farther East, a happy outcome of these complications will come more quickly.

8. The JOURNAL is the only prominent medical publication in this country which is not issued from the press of some private publishing firm. Its publishers are, or should be, the entire medical profession of America. It must, therefore, be published in the interests of no set or clique; its opinions must be quite unbiased by any local interest, any spirit of business or any private scheme.

9. There can be no question that the medical profession as well as the laity need in this country one powerful, well edited and liberally supported medical journal, which shall be an acknowledged authority upon scientific medicine, State medicine, hygiene and medical ethics.

10. The high grade of scholarship, the breadth of view and the business sagacity which have been shown of late in the management of the JOURNAL, give every promise that it is bound to become such a publication as has just been described; in short, an American medical journal of which Americans may be justly proud.

11. It will take this high place all the sooner if its seat of publication, its general surroundings and its support shall be as favorable as possible.

12. If the present rate of advance in the character of the JOURNAL shall be maintained the title should become THE AMERICAN MEDICAL JOURNAL; and in smaller type, the words THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION should appear upon the title page.

13. While it is true that the character of a publication is influenced by its environment it is also true that a publication exercises an influence upon the thoughts and action of those in whose midst it may be published, and this influence naturally increases with the growth and power of the publication; it would be well therefore that the JOURNAL should be published in Washington by reason of the restraining and enlightening influence its presence may have upon our legislators.

14. Great questions of national health, national hygiene and physical well-being are now engaging the attention of scientific men the world over, and as intimated above the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION should be in a position to test the alleged discoveries in these lines and to impress what else may be found valuable not only upon the profession but upon our public men as well.

15. The advance of the medical profession in America in learning, dignity, wealth and power has been marvelous during the past two decades. There is no probability that there can be in these respects a retrograde movement. The times are propitious. The future of American medicine is bright with hope. Let the JOURNAL seize the opportunity to place itself at the head of the profession and let each and every one of the members of the ASSOCIATION forgetting all local pride and all sectional prejudice do all that in us lies to advance no particu-

lar sect nor interest, no especial State, county or city but the power and good name of American medicine and the prosperity of its medical association. Let us be broad minded and patriotic and sink all sectional feeling in our common love of our profession and our devotion to the healing art.

RICHARD C. NEWTON, M.D.

### A Testimonial to Prof. N. S. Davis.

POMFRET, CONN., June 30, 1896.

*To the Editor:*—D. L.'s letter in the JOURNAL of June 20 in regard to a memorial to Dr. N. S. Davis reminds me that I have in my possession a medal struck in 1846, on its face a medallion and the words "N. S. Davis," and on the reverse the inscription "AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION," and the date "1846." This medal was given to me by Mrs. Williams of this town, whose husband, the late Dr. Lewis Williams, was a delegate to the 1846 meeting, which I think met in Louisville, Ky.

S. BURDEN OVERLOCK, M. D.

NOTE.—This convention met in New York in 1846.

### Treatment of Typhoid Fever.

JUNE 8, 1896.

*To the Editor:*—I have been much interested in the discussion of the "Woodbridge" treatment of enteric fever, and I am greatly pleased to see that many realize the necessity for fulfilling what I have long considered the essential requirements in not only this, but most, if not all, intestinal disturbances, viz.: Rid the digestive canal, promptly and thoroughly, of all offending or decomposing matter, together with the products of decomposition, thus preventing their absorption; render the contents of the entire tract aseptic as far as possible, and lastly—this and the first being, to my mind, the prime consideration—inducing decided alkalinity, as it is in acid media that most, nearly all, the obnoxious microorganisms thrive best. The degree of alkalinity should be positive and sufficient, and as, within reasonable limits, there is no danger of overdoing the matter, large quantities of alkali, preferably bicarbonate of sodium, should be given with sufficient frequency to maintain the condition.

While practicing in San Diego, Cal., I had many cases of enteric fever to treat, not one of which failed to yield promptly to the course of treatment here indicated, barring two, which were moribund as the result of intestinal hemorrhage when I first saw them.

I had recently on my hands a puny infant to treat, whose surroundings were in the highest degree unfavorable, suffering from entero-peritonitis, to which I gave freely sod. bic., 2 drams, and sod. et pot. tart., 1 dram, in milk every two hours. When I first saw the child it was to all appearances nearly dead; thighs flexed upon the abdomen; too weak to even cry; abdomen distended almost to bursting; temperature 106.5, pulse too rapid and weak to accurately count. I promptly got it under the influence of that most reliable and efficient of all stimulants, nitro-glycerin, and then began the administration of alkalies. It began to respond to treatment at once, free evacuations of most offensive material soon taking place, followed by reduction in temperature and tympanites. Ten days later the child had practically recovered. In fact I have found that in all cases of acute intestinal trouble, even when profuse diarrhea is present, brisk cathartics afford the most prompt and certain relief. With them moderate doses of anodynes may be given, but not to the extent of inhibiting catharsis.

While on this subject permit me to invite attention to the great and decided efficacy of large quantities of alkalies in chronic digestive disorders. Particularly in those disturbances from which the users of tobacco and alcohol suffer, will this be found the case. To many such I have frequently given doses of one to two ounces of bicarbonate of sodium, fre-