It is believed by some that pathogenic microorganisms, other than the tubercle bacillus, play an important part in the destruction of lung tissue. In view of the facts that during sleep the vital resistance of the system is greatly lessened and that the air in all large cities contains innumerable hosts of ferocious pathogenic microbes, the wonder is that there not more pale, wan faces in cities, or even that there should be any one left to tell the tale.

It is even hinted that the tubercle bacillus alone is unable to cope with the vital resistance of the system. Hence we send our consumptives to a high dry location for pure air. But with my plan a high dry location with absolutely pure air is sent to our consumptives.

Not only the apartments for invalids but also factories, business offices, store rooms, etc., could have the mountain air, simply by making the upper part of the rooms air-tight.

I have thus briefly outlined the plan for supplying cities with pure air of any desired temperature at a trifling cost compared with the benefits to be derived, and I hope to see Chicago—the wonder of the nineteenth century—take the lead in making a test of its practicability.

S. E. HAMPTON, M.D.

Quis Custodiet ipsos Custodes?

CHICAGO, April 13, 1895.

To the Editor:—At a meeting of the faculty of the Northwestern University Woman's Medical School, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted and ordered to be placed before the Illinois State Board of Health:

WHEREAS, On three occasions within the past three years, the Illinois State Board of Health has licensed to practice medicine in this State, students who have not properly qualified themselves for such duties, and whose incompetence has compelled us to withhold the degree of Doctor of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, By common report we are informed that the State Board has adopted a similar policy with reference to numerous other persons; therefore,

Resolved, By the faculty of the Northwestern University Woman's Medical School that the State Board be requested hereafter to make its examinations so rigid that persons incompetent to obtain the degree of Doctor of Medicine from first class medical colleges can not obtain license to practice from the Illinois State Board of Health.

Resolved, That the State Board of Health be urged to do all in its power to secure a modification of the State law, so that the privilege of examination for license to practice in this State can only be obtained by graduates of recognized medical schools in good standing.

Resolved, That for the protection of the lives and health of our people, we believe it the duty of the State Board of Health to do all in its power to prevent the entrance into the medical profession in this State of any persons not properly qualified; and further

Resolved, That in the interests of humanity and medical science we believe the State Board should make its standard of qualifications as high as that of the best medical colleges in this country, and that it should do all in its power to aid and encourage the efforts of the profession and the people for thorough medical education and higher requirements of licentiates and for the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

MARIE J. MERGLER, Secretary.

Shall the Physician Act as Clerk for an Insurance Company without Pay?

STOUGHTON, WIS., April 11, 1895.

To the Editor:—I inclose a copy of a letter I wrote to the Wisconsin Benevolent Association which is self-explanatory: *Wisconsin Benevolent Association, Milwaukee, Wis.*

Gentlemen:—Your letter of the 11th inst. at hand. Your statement does not in the least alter the position I have taken.

I filled out the blank sent to the patient, giving my diagnosis, number of visits, date of first and last visits, the time patient was confined to the house, etc. This is about all that is required of the attending physician, without compensation, by any legitimate accident insurance company and is amply sufficient to establish the justice of the claim so far as the testimony of the attending physician is concerned.

The filling out of a complicated blank, such as you inclose, requires time and technical skill, is exclusively for your benefit, and is not under any consideration justly chargeable to the patient. The patient has paid you for the insurance;

he has also paid me for the medical services rendered during his recent illness. It is therefore manifestly unjust, even if it were possible, to collect from him an additional fee for an examination and written report which is solely for your benefit. It is impossible for me to answer questions you put in your report without making a much more thorough and complete examination than is required in an ordinary case of a slight acute attack of sickness. Take for instance the question: "Were there indications of disease of the blood vessels?" Now it is no easy matter to determine this, and the question can not be truthfully answered until it is determined. The same is true regarding the question asking whether the patient *has had* any disease of the kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, etc. To even make a diagnosis of exclusion requires a careful and painstaking physical examination of the patient, a chemic and microscopic examination of the urine and the excretions generally. You can readily understand that this takes time and skill. If I am to answer these questions by guessing at it, you are about as competent to do that as I am.

I have consulted an excellent attorney regarding this matter and am prepared to sustain the position taken at all hazards. There is no way by which you can compel me to give you the benefit of my knowledge and experience without adequate compensation. Very respectfully yours,

J. NOER, M.D.

Antitoxin.

CHICAGO, April 13, 1895.

To the Editor:—In an editorial of the April 13 number of the JOURNAL, you refer to the case of Bertha Valentine, of Brooklyn, who died ten minutes after the injection of Behring's antitoxin No. 2, Op. 159, tested Jan. 30, 1895. April 5, I used Behring's antitoxin, No. 2, 1,000 and No. 2, Op. 159, tested Jan. 30, 1895 (note the coincidence of the Op., please), upon a 4-year-old boy with surprisingly good results. This seems to me but another link in the chain, showing that the cause of death was not inherent in the antitoxin used; for that used by me was from *exactly* the same lot of serum and *cured*, not killed, my case. It might be well to hear from every case upon which Op. 159, Jan. 30, 1895, test has been used.

Trusting that my contribution will help dispel the prejudice aroused by this deplorable case, I am,

Yours respectfully, ROSA ENGELMANN, M.D.

ANSWER:—This letter is itself evidence of the necessity of the collective investigation proposed by the JOURNAL.

Fairfield County (Conn.) Medical Society.

WESTPORT, CONN., April 10, 1895.

To the Editor:—At the one hundred and third annual meeting of the Fairfield County Medical Association, held in Bridgeport, April 9, the following officers were elected: F. B. Baker, East Norwalk, President; J. W. Wright, Bridgeport, Vice-President; L. T. Day, Westport, Clerk; C. R. Hexamer, Stamford, Corresponding Reporter. Censors: F. M. Wilson, Bridgeport; M. V. B. Dunham, Greenfield Hill; W. S. Watson, Danbury. Very truly yours, L. T. DAY, Clerk.

Nu Sigma Nu Convention—Amended Date of Meeting.

DETROIT, MICH., April 12, 1895.

To the Editor:—In my letter to you of March 7, having inclosed a notice of the Nu Sigma Nu Medical Convention for the JOURNAL's last issue, I gave the dates of meeting in Minneapolis as May 13, 14 and 15. The date has since been changed by Grand Council to June 3, 4 and 5, 1895. So please make the correction, and oblige. Very truly yours,

JOHN L. IRWIN, M.D.

ASSOCIATION NEWS.

The Forty-sixth Annual Meeting.

It is the desire of the Committee of Arrangements to issue a complete program of the proceedings for each day, in advance of the meeting. Secretaries of Sections should at once send to the chairman of the Committee on Printing, Dr. W. A. B. Sellman, No. 5 E. Biddle Street, Baltimore, Md., the titles of all papers to be read in their respective Sections, in the order in which they desire them to be read. Titles not received before April 20 can not be entered on the program.