

for the child. Berlin now has three kinds of the Fürsorgestellen as the Germans call them, some for tuberculous, some for infants and one for cancer subjects. They aim to watch over the applicants not only on the spot, but in their homes, and to improve their environment at need. Hamburg has six salaried women whose duties are to watch over the infants in the city asylums.

## Correspondence.

### The Relation of the Physician to Proprietary Remedies.

St. Louis, Dec. 13, 1904.

To the Editor:—In your issue of December 3, under the heading "The Relation of the Physician to Proprietary Remedies," Dr. William J. Robinson indirectly assails the integrity of two houses with which I am connected. I feel it my duty to call your attention to a number of errors and gross misrepresentations, and in justice to these concerns, reputable manufacturers and patrons of your advertising pages for fifteen years, you should place this matter in its proper light before your readers.

I would not undertake to answer this article as a whole, because its labored efforts are apparent and its inconsistency answers itself. Nor would I take the time to correct any statement emanating from Dr. Robinson were it not given space in THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association. I do not question the right of Dr. Robinson or of any physician to approve or to disapprove any chemical or pharmaceutical product, but I do protest against the malicious way Dr. Robinson speaks of seng and chionia as "quack nostrums," classifying them with pain-killers and cure-alls, and their manufacturers among "ignoramuses" and "saloon-keepers," "without the slightest idea of chemistry, materia medica or therapeutics." In point of fact, seng and chionia are manufactured by the Sultan Drug Company and the Peacock Chemical Company, respectively; houses whose reputation and standing have never been questioned. Their manufactory is in the hands of an experienced pharmaceutical chemist, and their exploitations are strictly ethical. Never in their entire existence have they deviated one iota from their chosen field, as manufacturers of ethical pharmaceuticals. Their advertisement has never been seen by anyone excepting in reputable medical journals. It is true that the working formulæ for seng and chionia are not published, but this is done to protect those physicians who are daily employing them from the very inconvenience that Dr. Robinson has with the iron and manganese product he speaks of. If he were to prescribe our Peacock's bromids, the formula for which we plainly give, he would, no doubt, experience the same trouble. We have examined substitutes for this product, even some that were made by manufacturers whose business it is to make these substitutes for unscrupulous druggists, and who should know better, and found them to contain absolutely no bromid of lithium, and in some cases they were merely mixtures of bromids of potassium and sodium. In the case of chionia and seng, the physician, the patient and the manufacturer have some protection against this evil. Many physicians who wish to employ *Chionanthus virginica* when it is indicated, prescribe chionia, because it best represents the true therapeutic action of that drug. Its dose is well known, just as is the dose of a tincture, without knowing or caring whether it is two, four or six ounces of the drug to the pint. And again, seng, a pleasant elixir of the *Panax schinseng*, has many friends in the profession as a digestive tonic—and we feel satisfied that the practicing physician does not want its working formula any more than he would want to refer to his textbook to ascertain its exact composition each time he wished to prescribe compound tincture of cinchona.

The products of the Sultan Drug Company and of the Peacock Chemical Company have been endorsed by more than forty thousand practicing physicians in this country and England, and to these and others who may still become prescribers of their preparations, I repeat the pledge of these

concerns, to maintain the strict ethical bearing toward the physician, which they have always sustained.

FRED W. SULTAN,

President Sultan Drug Company.

Secretary-Treasurer Peacock Chemical Company.

### Duplicate Twins and Double Monsters.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS., Dec. 15, 1904.

To the Editor:—As I have recently become interested in a line of investigation which requires the careful examination of all forms of double monsters, I would be extremely grateful for the gift or loan of fetal or new-born specimens exhibiting any grade of this phenomenon.

As such cases are rare, there is a natural tendency to store them up as museum specimens, in which condition the benefit to be derived from them is inconsiderable; while a thorough anatomic investigation would yield far more important results. As I am working on a definite problem, I do not care at present for other forms of monsters, such as those of microcephalous, acephalous or amorphous types, but only for those which exhibit a doubling of any axial part, ranging from single individuals with doubled median parts to two complete individuals united at a single point. Similar cases occurring among the lower mammals, or, in fact, any vertebrate, will be of nearly equal interest. For fresh material, the best preservative for my purpose is 5 per cent. formalin; i. e., the commercial article mixed with water in proportion of 1—20 or thereabouts, although material preserved by any other method will be of value. In specimens larger than four-months embryos the thoracic and abdominal cavities should be freely opened to insure complete preservation.

For a more detailed description of the types of monster I especially desire, I may refer the reader to the enumeration of the various forms, grouped under diplopagi in my article<sup>1</sup> in the *American Journal of Anatomy*, vol. iii., No. 4, September, 1904.

HARRIS HAWTHORNE WILDER.

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## Queries and Minor Notes.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS will not be noticed. Queries for this column must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, but the request of the writer not to publish his name will be faithfully observed.

### PATHOLOGIC LABORATORIES.

LINCOLN, NEB., Dec. 9, 1904.

To the Editor:—Wishing to obtain information in regard to the states in which hygienic or pathologic laboratories have been established where pathologic material can be sent for examination without charge, I would esteem it a great favor to receive answers to the following questions: 1. In what states have such laboratories been established? 2. What appropriations have been made in the several states by their legislatures for carrying on this? 3. How many men have been required in each case to do the work? 4. How much of each appropriation was used in the payment of salaries?

H. H. WATTE.

ANSWER.—1. Chapin, in "Municipal Sanitation in the United States," names the following states as equipped with bacteriologic laboratories: Colorado, Louisiana, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Vermont. Answers to questions 2, 3 and 4 can be best obtained by application to the secretaries of the respective boards of health. The expenditure doubtless varies from year to year as do the number of persons engaged in the work and their respective salaries. The salaries paid in municipal laboratories range all the way from \$3,000 a year to a small fixed sum (e. g., \$1) for each examination made.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRACTICE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

COLUMBIA, Mo., Dec. 14, 1904.

To the Editor:—1. To whom must application be made for the position of contract surgeon in the United States Army in the Philippines? 2. Do you think it advisable for a young physician to go there? 3. Is it necessary for a graduate of an American College to pass an examination to practice medicine in Porto Rico?

J. M. SANTIAGO.

ANSWER.—1. Surgeon General, U. S. A., Washington, D. C. 2. Yes, if assured of a position, as the experience will be valuable. Otherwise no, as too many physicians are there already who have no work. 3. No.

1. EDITOR'S NOTE: See editorial in this issue.