Wilson sells his ear-drums on the mail-order plan; also he travels over the country selling them. In some of his advertising Wilson claims to have been president of the Louisville School Board. This will not surprise those familiar with the exploitation of medical frauds who know that the second largest city in the United States until recently had for its president of the Board of Education an individual who made his money out of the sale of a "cure" for sore eyes and a correspondence school of spectacle fitting. Wilson also claims to have been "honored with the presidency of the Kentucky Society Sons of the American Revolution," which, while doubtless a splendid advertising asset for Wilson, does not do credit to the judgment of a presumably reputable organization.

The Wilson Ear-Drum, with "nickel forceps" and "drum inserters" thrown in, come at \$5 a pair. As cures for deafness they are not worth five cents, except as they presumably furnish Wilson with an easy living.

THE CANADIAN REPORT ON THE FRIEDMANN "CURE"

Reference has been made to the action of the Canadian authorities on the Friedmann "cure," but the report has not heretofore been given in full. Here it is:

"In order to allay public excitement and to afford to the medical profession and people of Canada an authoritative statement regarding the value of Dr. Friedmann's treatment, the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis nominated a committee of five members to study and report on the cases inoculated by Dr. Friedmann at Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and London, Ontario. That committee has added to itself those physicians who have under observation the cases treated in these cities. The committee thus constituted begs to report that it has carefully studied the case histories of the patients inoculated by Dr. Friedmann. These number altogether 161, namely, for Montreal 55, for Ottawa 10, for Toronto 81, for London 15.

"As a result of our observations from March 11 to June 23, the following conclusions seem justifiable:

"1. The inoculations have neither constantly nor frequently been followed by any marked change in the clinical course of the disease.

"2. The cure or progress toward cure claimed by Dr. Friedmann for his treatment has neither constantly nor even frequently taken place in the time during which these cases have been under observation.

"3. Thus on investigation the committee finds that the results have been disappointing, and that the claims made for this remedy have not been proved, and that *nothing has been found to justify any confidence in the remedy.*" [Italics ours.—Ed.]

Correspondence

Preliminary Report of a Case of Sensitization to the May-Fly (Ephemera)

To the Editor:—In July, 1913, a patient consulted me for attacks of a distressing coryza with sneezing, lacrimation and a reddening of the eyes. He stated that these attacks came on during June and July and appeared to be brought about while driving in the evening whenever he encountered a swarm of those ephemerids commonly called "May-flies," "Canada soldiers," "fish-flies," etc. These insects, as is well known, are abundant in the region of the Great Lakes, the imago passing its brief existence in the air, at which time the female is fertilized. The attacks from which the patient suffered had begun a few years previously and without assignable cause. The symptoms were quite like those of hay-fever without asthma, and after each one, in the absence of a repetition of the usual exciting cause, a day or two was necessary for recovery.

In order to test the hypothesis of a sensitization to the ephemerid, a single insect was caught and shaken in a vial with about 2 c.c. of sterile saline solution. One drop of this solution was placed in the patient's right eye. In less than two minutes there was smarting and irritation of the eye,

and within fifteen or twenty minutes a marked conjunctival redness and a pronounced chemosis developed, the other eye remaining normal. Three controls were tried with the same solution on presumably normal subjects with negative results. The reaction in the patient's eye from the experiment was so great, and was attended with so much physical distress for from twenty-four to twenty-six hours, that no subsequent experiments have been attempted; but I have in preparation some protein extractives from the dried insects, which may make further investigation possible, and I hope to make a later report in the matter. Whether the sensitizing agent of the ephemerid is a substance generally distributed through its body, or resides in the eggs, which are abundant, or in some other special organ or part is not yet clear.

I supposed that this peculiar form of sensitization had not been noted or reported by any other observer and was surprised to learn by personal communication from Mr. F. West of the Gratwick Laboratory in Buffalo that a similar case has been observed this year by Dr. F. W. Hinekel of that city.

If any cases of sensitization to this ephemerid have been recognized by others, I should be gratified for any information concerning them.

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32 Adams Avenue West, Detroit.

Sterilization of Rubber Gloves by Boiling

To the Editor:—The method of sterilizing rubber gloves described by Dr. Ray Ernest Smith in THE JOURNAL, Oct. 18, 1913, p. 1475, is a good one when only one examination of the patient is required. I, however, prefer to boil them. I know then that they are absolutely safe. I put the gloves into a small pan of water, place it on an ordinary kitchen or oil stove, and let them boil a few minutes. This I do while I scrub my hands and arms with soap and water, using no antiseptic whatever. I allow cold water to run into the gloves to dislodge the hot, and draw them on while they are distended. After each examination I put the gloves back into the hot water and give them another boil. Frequent boiling of rubber gloves does not impair their quality if they are not roughly handled and if thoroughly dried after using. I believe that this is the safest, simplest and most satisfactory method of sterilizing gloves for obstetric work.

WALTER A. LANDRY, M.D., Chester, Pa.

Exuberant Verbosity

To the Editor:—Has the editorial writer (THE JOURNAL, Oct. 18, 1913, p. 1464) overlooked the historical fact that the exuberant verbosity of legal forms was not an intoxication, but a species of graft? Old English law-clerks were paid so much a word or a line for engrossing legal documents, and in consequence the more words used, the greater the pay. Every synonym, nearly or distantly connected, was drawn in and duly inscribed. A sentence lingers in my memory, taken from an old English common-law form of indictment for maintaining a nuisance in which it is alleged that "divers odors, saviors, smells, scents and stenchies did issue, proceed and flow therefrom." As the principles of *lex scripta* are said to be immutable, so also appears to be its language; for the same quaint, archaic phraseology, scarcely altered except in spelling, is used in legal forms to-day as in the days of Good Queen Bess or in those of Bloody Mary.

BERNARD WOLFF, M.D., Atlanta, Ga.

Tuberculosis Among Schoolteachers.—Over a period of years 52.4 per cent. of the deaths among schoolteachers, between the ages of 25 and 34 were due to tuberculosis, while only 25.8 per cent. of the deaths among all persons in Michigan, between the ages of 25 and 34, were due to this disease. Among schoolteachers of all ages 27.6 per cent. of the deaths were due to tuberculosis, while among all persons of all ages only 9.4 per cent. were due to this disease.—*Bull. Mich. State Bd. Health.*