and to present the same general chemical reactions. As the writer points out, urethane belongs to the class of narcotic poisons, and he suggests that uræmic symptoms may be due to the presence and retention of this toxine.

Whether in this discovery we have at least cleared up the doubtful pathology of uræmic coma, remains for further observation and study. Certain it is that it suggests a new line of inquiry that *apriori* is full of promise, and one which, apparently, is capable of reconciling the wide variation in the observed symptoms in acute urinary suppression and Bright's disease.

FOURTH OF JULY SURGERY.

The usual number of Fourth of July accidents may be expected this year, especially in the large cities and among our patriotic boys from ten to sixteen years of age. In former times, the toy cannon used to figure very largely in the etiology of the injuries liable to keep the practitioners busy on the great holiday, but during recent years the giant cracker has forced its way to the front as the champion among dangerous playthings. The injuries inflicted by these crackers very commonly have their situation in the right hand, splitting open the thumb, at or near its base, and causing a compound dislocation of the proximal joint of the first metacarpal bone, tearing the latter away from the trapezium, so that the thumb and its metacarpal are connected with the hand only by the soft parts. Sometimes the explosion affects the ungual phalanx, severing it from the hand. In the report of the surgical work performed at the Boston City Hospital on the Fourth of July, of last year, there were twenty-one cases brought to the hospital as the result of explosions, the majority of which were due to the giant fire-cracker.

PURE CULTURES OF THE GONOCOCCUS.

VON SCHROTTER and WINKLER report that they have recently employed plover's egg albumen in the cultivation of the gonococcus of NEISSER. The coccus is obtained from the urethra with all possible precautions. The glans is first washed with alcohol and corrosive sublimate, then some of the infected pus is conveyed by a sterile needle to the coagulated albumen. The culture is placed in a brood oven at a tempera-

ture of 38° C. At the end of six hours a thin, whitish, transparent layer appears, that extends itself rapidly over the albumen. There is some growth at ordinary temperatures, but it is much less. Experiments with egg albumen of the common fowl were negative. *Centralblatt für Bakteriologie und Parasitenkunde*, May 23, 1891.

(It is to be regretted that some more readily obtainable culture medium was not found than plover's egg. Still, even with this disadvantage, it is to be hoped that pure cultures of the gonococcus may materially advance our knowledge of this important inficiens.—Ref.)

MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

The following circular has a melodious ring that clearly says: Attention, right dress, forward march. Straggling and getting out of line are strictly forbidden:

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, KENTUCKY,

June 19, 1891.

To the Editor:—I am instructed by this Board to transmit to you for publication the following self-explanatory resolution, which was adopted at its recent meeting held in Louisville:

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to place upon the list of medical colleges whose diplomas are to be certified and endorsed for registration under the laws of this State only such colleges as shall, after the session of 1891-2, exact of matriculates and candidates for graduation a minim of requirements not less than those required by the American Medical College Association.

Very respectfully,

J. N. MCCORMACK, Sec'y.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

For the many generous expressions of goodwill on the part of the editors of almost the entire medical press of this country, as well as from an army of friends of THE JOURNAL, we express our most hearty appreciation, and very warmest thanks.

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION is neither the rival nor antagonist of any part of the medical press, but in all good work for the elevation and betterment of our profession in every section of our country it may be counted upon as giving a strong support, and in utterances of no uncertain sound. Whether