"Indeed, it is not so many years since many of the so-called ethical medical journals carried the ads of some of the most notorious quacks this country has ever known.

"Doubtless there are few, if any, who do so at the present time, but, on the other hand, there are only a few who do not advertise unethical institutions, and questionable proprietary medicines. As a matter of fact some of the most widely advertised patent medicines of today were formerly advertised as ethical proprietaries in medical periodicals, the great majority of which are still serving as a sort of preparatory school for advertisements that will presently appear in the lay press.

"What shall be offered in defense of the medical publication which continues to publish the advertising matter of hundreds of proprietaries which the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association has shown to be either generally worthless or an out and out fake?

"Can the medical editor plead ignorance? Hardly. To do so would be to admit utter incapacity. There is only one inference to be drawn; the publication needs the money and is not over particular regarding its source.

"There is a remedy, however, a remedy absolutely certain in its results. If every physician in the United States for a period of three months would positively refuse to receive at his desk a medical journal containing questionable advertising, this blotch on medical journalism could be erased.

"It is true that many of them would sink, never to rise again, but the profession would be better off without those whose existence depends upon 'phoney' advertising. There are, unfortunately, several American journals whose reading pages are well and carefully edited and a credit to medical literature, whose advertising pages carry such undesirable matter that the educated physician can only feel a sense of disgust.

"Such journals could very well succeed on the quality of their reading matter and undoubtedly would increase their circulation enough to more than offset the loss in advertising."

Correspondence

The Defervescence in Typhus Fever

To the Editor:—May I add my experience in corroboration of your statement in a recent Current Comment, on this subject (THE JOURNAL, May 15, 1915, p. 1664) that the fever of typhus terminates in a great proportion of cases by lysis and not by crisis? The three typhus epidemics which I observed in Russia have given me sufficient material to support that statement. As a rule, the fever terminates on the twelfth, fourteenth or seventeenth day, the drop in temperature occupying from twelve to seventy-two hours. Even in the rare cases in which the fever ends abruptly, the temperature curve is seldom like the typical curve of lobar pneumonia. It may be worth mentioning that in children in whom the disease is nearly always mild, critical defervescence hardly ever occurs.

G. A. FRIEDMAN, M.D., New York.

Effect on Membership of Removal from State

To the Editor:—I enclose a copy of a resolution which was adopted by the Medical Society of the District of Columbia at a recent meeting, with the request that it be published in THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association.

A. L. HUNT, M.D., Corresponding Secretary,
Washington, D. C.

Moved, that the Executive Committee recommends to the Medical Society of the District of Columbia the adoption of the following resolutions, with instructions that copies thereof be sent to the delegates, presidents and secretaries of the various state medical associations; that it be printed in the *Washington Medical Annals*; and that a copy be sent to THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association with request for its publication therein.

WHEREAS, Section 3, Chapter VIII, of the By-Laws of the American Medical Association provides as follows:

Effect on Membership of Removal to Another State: A member who changes the location at which he practices medicine from the state through whose constituent association he holds membership in the American Medical Association to another state in which there is a

constituent association is eligible to membership in the component society of his new location upon the presentation of a transfer card and an official statement that his dues have been paid in full in the society in which he holds membership. He shall forfeit his membership in the American Medical Association one year after such change of location, unless he becomes a member of the constituent association of the state to which he has moved. Provided, however, that if the component society into whose territory such member has moved shall refuse him membership, the member shall be privileged to appeal to the Judicial Council of this Association to determine whether or not he be guilty of any act that warrants the enforcement of the provisions of this section. Pending the decision of such appeal, he shall retain his membership in the American Medical Association through his original state association. And provided, further, that the term "the practice of medicine" throughout these by-laws shall be held to mean the offering of service or counsel for the relief of those suffering from abnormal physical or mental conditions. Provided, that nothing in this section shall be construed as exempting any member of the American Medical Association from compliance with the requirements of the civil laws of the state or district into which he may have been removed.

Be it Resolved, That the Medical Society of the District of Columbia is opposed to the foregoing section, for the following reasons:

The section is loosely and clumsily worded, and contains provisions of questionable relevancy or practicability. The proviso relating to appeal to the Judicial Council seems meaningless, as it does not appear what "the provisions of this section" are that are to be enforced, or how they are to be enforced. According to the apparent intent, the operation of the section, if enforceable, could have the effect of compelling local and constituent associations against their will to admit members by transfer from other jurisdictions. This method of admitting members by transfer is not contemplated by the procedure prescribed in the constitution of this society, or doubtless in the constitutions of many other state associations; hence the virtual effect of this section is automatically to override and nullify in this respect these constitutions without the consent of the local associations, and even without consulting them. The adherence to the general plan of organization of the American Medical Association required of the constituent associations cannot be construed as granting unlimited control over local affairs. Absolute, complete and unrestricted control over admission to its own membership is a fundamental right vital to the autonomy of any organization. That three outsiders, however excellent, members of the Judicial Council, should have the appellate power to dictate to the hundreds of members of a constituent association as to the admission of new members is totally repugnant to the approved American principle of local self government. Their familiarity with local conditions and local spirit makes the members of a local association far better qualified to act in their own way on applicants for membership than any outside tribunal; their decision should be final, and it is not likely that material injustice will be done. Furthermore, if the right of the American Medical Association to encroach on local prerogatives and override local constitutions in one matter is conceded, there is not a limit to the autocratic interference with personal and local independence and privileges to which it or its managers might not attempt to lay claim. For the foregoing reasons the Medical Society of the District of Columbia is not disposed to recognize any authority, jurisdiction or power of interference whether on the part of the American Medical Association or its Judicial Council with respect to the admission of members or any other purely local matter. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the delegate of this society to the American Medical Association is instructed to offer and promote the adoption of some such substitute as the following for the foregoing Section 3, Chapter VIII of the By-Laws, which should amply meet the requirements of the case.

REMOVAL OF MEMBERS.—A member of a constituent association removing from the jurisdiction thereof may remain eligible for membership in the American Medical Association for a period of eighteen months following such removal, after which such eligibility shall cease, unless or until it is reestablished by his becoming a member of the constituent association of the jurisdiction in which he is located.

Strychnin Symptoms After Large Doses of Morphin

To the Editor:—That large doses of morphin may produce symptoms resembling those caused by strychnin can be seen not only from the recent experimental work of Hugh McGuigan and E. L. Ross (THE JOURNAL, May 1, 1915, p. 1494) but also from the following observations. In the *Philadelphia Medical Journal*, March 21, 1903, I published the following record under the title, "Spinal Symptoms Caused by Acute Morphine Poisoning":

A middle-aged man in one of his usual attacks of rheumatic pain from which he had been a sufferer for several years went to a nearby pharmacy for relief. A mixture containing 3 grains of morphin sulphate was given him. He drank over a half of it at once. Half an hour later he suddenly became pale and fell in a semicomatose state. Some clonic contractions in the upper extremities and trismus made their appearance which, however, did not last long. A vomitive was given him before my arrival. I found him pale, covered with perspiration and unable to walk. When forced to take a few steps, spastic paralysis