While:

"... eminent chemists have confessed themselves unable to understand his chemistry."

The authors explain:

"Recognizing that this might prejudice our practical tests of Intramine and Ferrivine, we have taken particular care to guard against their influence, cross-checking our observations and submitting them to others for confirmation or otherwise."

Harrison and Mills chose for a test three ordinary cases of secondary syphilis, cases with well marked lesions, the clinical progress of which could easily be watched and from which it was easy to obtain specimens for microscopic examination. After a detailed account of the three cases—which records grave conditions resulting from the treatment and which shows the inefficiency of the drugs—they write:

"From the above account it will be seen that the local and general reactions which follow the injection of these preparations are by no means pleasant. In the case of Intramine the pain is undiluted torture, and lasts so for two or three days. One of us had previously treated four cases with Intramine and the same local reaction occurred in these. In two of them abscesses have burst outwardly, one of which is still discharging necrotic debris, ten weeks after the injection, and will take many more weeks to close. In those cases where no abscess has yet burst it is easy to feel by the gap in the muscles that considerable necrosis has occurred. None of these effects can be ascribed to sepsis, as most rigid aseptic precautions were taken. Further, particular care was taken to make the injections strictly intramuscular. The constitutional symptoms which follow immediately upon the injection of Ferrivine are distinctly alarming, and such as would cause one to hesitate before injecting this remedy into any but robust patients."

Harrison and Mills estimate the therapeutic effects of these drugs thus:

"1. That Ferrivine entirely failed to cause *S. pallida* to disappear from the lesions of three well-marked cases of secondary syphilis.

"2. After the failure of Ferrivine to cause the disappearance of *Spirocheta pallida* from a mucous patch a single dose of 0.3 gm. salvarsan effected this in 18 hours, and the patch, which had hitherto been uninfluenced, had healed within 48 hours.

"3. Clinically we were unable to detect any influence of either or both these compounds on syphilitic lesions, although each of them was of the variety which heals in a week or ten days under salvarsan treatment.

"4. Further syphilitic lesions appeared immediately after the treatment in one of the two cases treated with both Ferrivine and Intramine. A mucous patch appeared on one tonsil as well as further syphilitic papules from which spirochaetes were obtained. The other case developed nephritis, with albumin and epithelial casts; which was not present prior to the injections."

While from these cases the obvious conclusion was drawn that Intramine and Ferrivine "have no specific effect on early syphilis," these authors subsequently treated a case of tertiary syphilis with the drugs. An Intramine injection caused pain for several days but did not stop the progress of the disease. Ferrivine was then administered "not without a feeling of grave responsibility" in view of their previous experiences. They state that "the reaction which resulted in this instance was the most severe" they ever experienced after an intravenous injection of any of the antisyphilitic remedies with which they had previously worked. It is stated that "for a period of some minutes there was grave doubt as to the patient's survival." After resuscitation the patient passed a disturbed night, and rigors which ensued lasted until the following afternoon. The authors report that in this case also no clinical improvement occurred and that the Intramine-Ferrivine treatment was replaced by a course consisting of salvarsan, potassium iodid and mercurial inunction.

Ferrivine, Intramine and Collosol Iodine were declared inadmissible to New and Nonofficial Remedies.

The General Practitioner's Duty.—Preparedness for health in any state or community requires for the prevention of communicable disease, accuracy in early diagnosis by the family practitioner and such means and knowledge as to care and treatment as will shorten the period of communicability to the minimum and limit the contact between the sick person and the rest of the community to those who are insusceptible or to places where the conditions of residence and supervision will prevent exposure.—Haven Emerson, M.D., "Preparedness for Health."

Correspondence

"PATRIOTISM RAMPANT"

To the Editor:—Referring to Dr. Burr's letter in THE JOURNAL, Sept. 1, 1917, p. 751, it is true that Eucken declared that German Kultur was necessary to the spiritual preservation of mankind. But he did not say that the English language should be barred from Germany.

The Germans are still reading English literature, and are very frequently presenting Shakesperian plays, even more often than we are. And even England itself has not barred the German language. In the "Prospectus of University Courses in the Manchester School of Technology," Manchester, England, session of 1917-1918, you will find that all courses, namely, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, municipal and sanitary engineering, and applied and textile industries, provide for the teaching of German. German textbooks are recommended for the use of the students, and no other foreign language is mentioned. Must we out-English the English?

One other question. If we discard the German language, should we not be consistent and refuse to make use of any of the German discoveries? For instance, would it not be unpatriotic to perform the Wassermann test, to administer salvarsan or to look for the gonococcus and the *Spirochaeta pallida*? For as you know, they all come from German sources.

WILLIAM J. ROBINSON, M.D., New York.

To the Editor:—Once more, please, something in answer to "Patriotism Rampant." Should we discard the German language we would have to dismiss about half of the English as well. Have we ever stopped to think how much alike these two languages are? There are many like words in the two languages modified only in form; their common origin can be recognized readily. This goes to show that we are of common stock belonging to the Low German race, from which came the Angles and Saxons. "Some historians, as Prof. Henry Morley, regard the distinction between Saxon and Angle as a mere accidental difference of name; the people themselves employing the name of Angles, while Saxon was a foreign designation by the Romans and Celts." The authority Bede says that the Angles were one of three tribes that passed over from the continent in the fifth and sixth centuries into England and formed the dominant element in its subsequent population. During the reign of William the Conqueror, a host of words of Latin-French or English form crept into the English, making the language a hodge-podge. It is hard to tell just how they ever got there, yet there also appear in the English language a number of Greek words, thus showing the language to be a veritable mongrel. However, be it as it may, the two peoples, the German and the English, have so much in common that they should be shaking hands instead of nursing discord and hatred.

ROBERT PETER, M.D., Chicago.

To the Editor:—If it was the intention to discredit or make ridiculous the subject matter of my letter in THE JOURNAL, September 1, by reprinting the caption "Patriotism Rampant," the object might have been better attained by following the lead of your lay contemporary, the Detroit *Abend Post* in employing "Hysterische Patriotismus."

I submit that it is necessary to put a crimp in the sort of propaganda detailed in my letter to the Detroit *Saturday Night*, which I enclose, and if any better method is known to this end than minimizing the importance of study in this country of a very much overestimated foreign language, it is somebody's duty to suggest it. The Teutonic plan of sneering at anything which bears the remotest resemblance to American patriotism is becoming more and more unpopular, and what is denominated in German printed papers in this country the "nativist" press, whether lay or medical, will soon discover it.

There are three ways of graduated effectiveness in dealing with a bully—cow, cripple or kill—and if a mischievous agi-