members to make some change and as a rule a radical change was expected and hoped for. As someone afterwards said, the Association, as heretofore conducted, has been a pyramid standing on its point, base upward, and the point being the Council, which has practically managed affairs. The pyramid is now turned right-side up. Hereafter the affairs of the Association will be conducted by a delegate body, elected by the subordinate branches of the Association. There is a little anxiety expressed on the part of some as to the result of the radical change, although the large majority seem to think that only good can be the outcome. Hereafter the constituencies, in other words the small branches, will be responsible themselves for what the Association may do, for the Association, as a legislative and business body, will be their creation.

The Sections.

The scientific work of the meeting has been unusually successful and all the sections were well attended. The sections on surgery, obstetrics and gynecology were, as a rule, more largely attended than the others. Nothing of striking interest in the way of theories or discoveries or any remarkably brilliant contribution has to be recorded, although there was good all-around work in practically all the sections.

President's Address.

Dr. G. Bagot Ferguson, president of the Association, delivered his address on "Scientific Research; the Indispensable Basis of All Medical and Material Progress," before an audience of about 2000 members. For abstract of this see THE JOURNAL of August 3, page 327.

Dr. Patrick Manson Honored.

Dr. Patrick Manson was presented with the Stewart prize at one of the general meetings. It was established for the encouragement of the study of epidemic diseases. The prize was presented by the president, who congratulated the recipient on the importance of his past work and hoped for his future, both as to health and scientific research.

Annual Dinner.

The Association's annual dinner was held on August 1, at Cheltenham College, and was attended by about 400. It was presided over by the president. Among the speakers were Surgeon-General J. B. Hamilton, Inspector-General A. Turnbull, Sir William Broadbent, Dr. Sabouraud (Paris), Sir William MacCormac, Sir William Church, Professor Onondi (Budapest) and Professor George Dock (Ann Arbor). The latter replied in a humorous vein to the toast proposing the health of the guests, his name having been coupled therewith.

Excursions.

Although there was no equivalent to the Yellowstone National Park of the American Medical Association, the excursions into the famous Malvern Hills and neighboring valleys were interesting and well attended. Tewkesbury Abbey, with its neighboring Roman villa, and Gloucester and Cirencester were also visited by large parties. The scientific work of the meeting was often pleasantly broken into by agreeable garden parties and receptions.

Correspondence.

Collective Investigation of the Influence of the Silver Nitrate Injections on Phthisis.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 15, 1901.

To the Editor:—In 1892 the undersigned began a collective investigation of the action of cold in the treatment of acute pneumonia and there is reason for believing that this procedure, which resulted in gathering four hundred cases of this disease thus treated, with a death-rate not quite five per cent., was an important factor in calling attention to the utility of that treatment, and in introducing it to the profession of this country. The research was based on the conviction that no remedy can be called truly successful until it has passed the exacting crucible of clinical experience.

It is now proposed to apply the same ordeal to the silver-injection treatment of phthisis, which, in a large hospital, dispensary and private practice, reaching over a period of three years, and during which many thousand injections were

administered, has given me greater satisfaction than any other method that I have ever employed. In keeping with the above expressed feeling a cordial invitation is herewith extended to those members of the profession who have the inclination and opportunity to investigate this method of treating phthisis and to whom a reprint on the subject with full information and blanks to report cases, will be cheerfully sent on application.

THOMAS J. MAYS, M.D.

1829 Spruce Street.

The Smallpox Epidemic.

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 14, 1901.

To the Editor:—There is a point or two in your issue of August 3, to which I wish to call attention. Dr. Happel, in his paper, quotes from F. J. Runyon's paper entitled "Our Recent Epidemic of Smallpox and the Failure of Glycerinated Lymph," read before the Tennessee State Society, April, 1901, and published in the *Memphis Medical Monthly*, August, and attempts to support his own view that vaccination does not prevent the eruptive disease so widely prevalent, and generally recognized as "smallpox."

Runyon's statistics clearly show that proper vaccination did give general immunity to the disease in question, but that glycerinated lymph was not favorable and did not prevent smallpox. I saw many cases with Dr. Runyon, and his observations and experience with glycerinated lymph coincide with my own.

Dr. Le Roy (in his discussion) confounds Clarksville with Montgomery County. Dr. Runyon and I saw the first case of smallpox in Clarksville, and immediately recognized the disease as smallpox. So far as I know, our diagnosis of this and other cases which followed, was never questioned by any regular practitioner in Clarksville.

The case Dr. Le Roy referred to was outside the corporate limits where we had no jurisdiction, and which he diagnosed as "modified smallpox," and which was questioned by a homeopathic physician.

The Doctor is further mistaken as to the source of the Guthrie epidemic. This epidemic was the result of a case from Evansville, Ind., and not from Clarksville.

We take good care of our cases and if the state would exercise measures as rigid, the disease would be much more readily controlled. The three "—ates" with us put a speedy end to the disease, for we vaccinate, isolate and fumigate.

Respectfully,

M. L. HUGHES,
City Health Officer.

Miscellany.

Death Rates in South American Cities.—According to E. Coni, in *Rev. Med. d. Uruguay*, the annual mortality per 1000 has averaged 14.11 in the last seven years at Montevideo; 17 at Buenos Ayres; from 35.5 to 59 at Santiago de Chili, and from 22.9 to 45.4 at Rio. At Lima the average for five years is 42.8. Pulmonary tuberculosis is responsible for 25 per cent. of the mortality in Peru.

Another Schlatter.—Our esteemed contemporary, the *Iowa Medical Journal*, has the following in its August issue: "The poor old Divine-Healer Schlatter, who created such a furor in Denver a few years ago, was arrested as a vag in Washington last month. He had been on a drunk for three weeks when run in. It seems that the divine-healing business is not profitable with some. It is an indication of the public pulse when lay journals and newspapers take up the subject of "christian science" and Dowieism and handle them as roughly as they do. The narrow-minded and closely contracted followers of these fadisms are getting fewer every day and it will be but a short time until such absurd theories as are now promulgated by these sects will be a thing of history." The Schlatter who a few years ago drew to Denver such crowds of dupes, was an entirely different individual from this Washington crank. The former was probably an honest religious paranoiac, who was reported to have starved to death while fasting forty days.