extractive matter, Epsom salt, sugar, alcohol and water, with a white powder at the bottom of the bottle, consisting principally of sulphate of lime. Falsely and fraudulently advertised. Fine, \$25 and costs.—[*Notice of Judgment No. 5269.*]

Dr. Bell's Pine Tar Honey.—Sold by E. E. Sutherland Medicine Co., Philadelphia. Analysis showed it to be an alcohol-water solution, containing ammonia, glycerin, pine tar, sassafras, red pepper, reducing sugars, a laxative drug and alkaloids. Falsely and fraudulently advertised. Fine, \$100.—[*Notice of Judgment No. 5271.*]

Lung Germine.—Shipped by the Lung Germine Co., Jackson, Mich. Analysis showed the preparation to be a water-alcohol solution, containing free sulphuric acid and iron sulphate. Falsely and fraudulently advertised. Fine, \$50.—[*Notice of Judgment No. 5280.*]

Correspondence

EFFECT OF INFLUENZA ON THE HEART

To the Editor:—Many physicians, no doubt, have frequently seen cases of influenza in which, usually after the fever has subsided, the pulse is slow and easily compressed, and the patient complains of dizziness, extreme weakness and depression, and on attempting to get up often falls into a faint.

Examination usually reveals a slow heart with sounds somewhat muffled, giving the impression to the ear of a tired out heart. This condition is usually taken to be one of myocarditis, and frequently it has been stated that in the future we shall have a great many cases of myocarditis and other heart conditions to contend with.

In taking the blood pressure, invariably I have found the diastolic pressure perfectly normal. The systolic is usually very low, so that the pulse pressure is anywhere from 15 to 20. This condition I have seen about once in every twenty or twenty-five cases of influenza under my care, and it has appeared in cases showing the very mildest or slightest degree of infection, as well as in the severer types. The fact that it appears in the mildest type of infection, in which the fever is very low and lasts only three or four days, as well as in the severer types, would lead me to believe that it is not due to an infection of the heart muscle itself, but rather to some disturbance in the factors that control the blood pressure.

It has been pointed out that severe infections, including influenza, frequently produce a disturbance of the suprarenal gland. For this reason I have used in all these cases the suprarenal gland or its extract, giving usually 10 drops of the 1:1,000 solution under the tongue every three hours. Within twenty-four hours there is usually a very decided change in the clinical condition of the patient. The dizziness and extreme depression are gone and the pulse rate increases from 10 to 15 beats per minute, the pulse pressure also increases, and within a few days the patient is comparatively well.

I do not mean to imply that myocardial or endocardial lesions do not occur, as they undoubtedly do in any such severe infection as influenza. However, I do feel that the majority of the heart manifestations we encounter are of the type described above. S. R. SALZMAN, M.D., Toledo, Ohio.

HELPING PHYSICIANS WHO HAVE HELPED THE GOVERNMENT

To the Editor:—There have been a large number of physicians who have profited professionally by the work they have been assigned while in the government service, by virtue of having been given base hospital assignments, intensive instruction courses, etc. On the other hand there have been a very large number who have been assigned administrative work, field work, etc., which has caused their real profes-

sional value to a community to deteriorate while in the service. Since as the government has arrangements for giving intensive instruction at certain clinics, I believe it would be only fair for them to make this instruction available for those who have had no such opportunities during their active war service.

I understand that the provision for an extra month's pay from date of discharge will not apply to members of the Reserve Corps unless they are discharged on account of physical disability; also there has been no opportunity for them to take advantage of the month's vacation out of each year which accumulates for those holding permanent commissions. If these statements are correct, they are additional arguments in favor of the foregoing plan.

Please do not publish my name or address.

M. M. C.

QUALIFIED PHYSICIANS DESIRED IN FLORIDA

To the Editor:—There has been considerable criticism from time to time by men from other states because the medical laws of Florida do not permit of reciprocity in medical licensure. In justice to the people and the medical fraternity of Florida I wish to state that we would have no objection to reciprocity of medical licensure between other states and Florida if it could be restricted to high grade men who are graduates of our best medical schools. An examination of the records shows, however, that literally thousands of requests for reciprocity have been received by the secretary of the Regular Board of Medical Examiners of Florida, and that a very large percentage of these are from men who are graduates of low grade schools. Many letters show extreme illiteracy, stamping the writers as uneducated men. Some letters have been threatening.

Florida offers as good a field for qualified medical men as any state in the Union today. In fact, we urge and welcome high grade men to locate in Florida. The officers of the state medical society will gladly cooperate in placing men in suitable locations. The examinations are exceedingly fair and our medical associations growing stronger, with medical fellowship better than ever before. We urge and welcome men from high grade schools to come and locate in "the Land of Flowers."

FRED J. WALTER, M.D., Daytona, Fla.
President, Florida Medical Association.

"THE 'ACRID PRINCIPLE' OF CERTAIN PLANTS"

To the Editor:—I note in THE JOURNAL, Dec. 7, 1918, p. 1917, an editorial comment on "The 'Acrid Principle' of Certain Plants." You cite the work of Brown and Anderson at the Pharmacological Laboratory of the University of Minnesota respecting the cause of acidity in certain plants. I called attention to the facts cited in the editorial in an article published in *Science*, 1903, 18, 115. My attention was called to the matter by Mr. W. E. Safford, botanist in the Bureau of Plant Industry. He said that he had heard it stated that the acidity of certain plants mentioned, such as the *Colocasia* and *Arisaema triphyllum*, was due to this cause, and requested that I have an examination made of them. As described in the article mentioned, I turned the matter over to Mr. B. J. Howard, microscopist of the Bureau of Chemistry. Soon after beginning the examination he came to me in quite an excited manner and asked me to witness a most peculiar phenomenon. In the field of the microscope I saw some oblong objects, not unlike extremely attenuated balloons of the Zeppelin type. In a short time I saw a sharp arrow discharged from one of these bundles, producing a slight recoil in the balloon. Soon thereafter a number of arrows were discharged simultaneously, the arrows going quite a distance in the field of the microscope and producing a corresponding recoil. It was, indeed, a true bombardment. The bundles of crystals (raphides) served as guns, and the slender sharp crystals of calcium oxalate were the missiles. It was truly a most remarkable display. It is easy to see how these extraordinarily sharp points discharged against the mucous sur-

1. "Lung Germine," a fraudulent consumption cure was exposed by the Propaganda department of THE JOURNAL some years ago. The matter appears in the pamphlet, "Consumption Cures," published by the American Medical Association, price 20 cents.

face produce the intense pain and irritation which the chewing of plants of this kind causes. Mr. Safford told me that among the Polynesians, with whom he had lived for a considerable length of time, these calcium oxalate bearing plants are some of the principal foods. They have to be well cooked before they are eaten. The cooking probably dissolves the crystals, and the plants are then eaten without injury or irritation. The *Colocasia* is the food product generally employed. If the Indian turnip, *Arisaema triphyllum*, is pulverized and the juice expressed and placed in the mouth, no sensation of acidity is experienced. This indicates either that the crystals of calcium oxalate are not expressed with the juice, or else that they do no harm unless shot out of the little cannon. The article in *Science* ends with this paragraph:

While not fully established, there is presumptive evidence that the pricking and burning sensation experienced in masticating materials of this kind is mostly of a mechanical origin.

H. W. WILEY, M.D., Washington, D. C.

Queries and Minor Notes

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS and queries on postal cards will not be noticed. Every letter must contain the writer's name and address, but these will be omitted, on request.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

To the Editor:—Please give the numbers of deaths during the last five years in the United States from phthisis, pneumonia, scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough and diphtheria.

J. M. MITCHELL, M.D., Pontiac, Ill.

ANSWER.—Figures are available only for the registration area of the United States, which, in 1916—the year for which the latest statistics are published—comprised twenty-six states and represented 71,621,632 people, or 70.2 per cent. of the total population of the United States. The figures in the following tabulation are from mortality statistics published by the Bureau of the Census of the U. S. Department of Commerce:

DEATHS IN REGISTRATION AREA OF UNITED STATES, 1911-1916 *

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Tuberculosis:					
All forms.....	101,396 (141.6)	98,194 (145.8)	96,903 (146.8)	93,421 (147.6)	90,360 (149.5)
Lungs.....	88,666 (123.8)	85,993 (127.7)	84,366 (127.8)	80,812 (127.7)	78,465 (129.9)
Meningitis.....	5,706 (8.0)	5,445 (8.1)	5,410 (8.2)	5,467 (8.6)	5,098 (8.4)
Other forms.....	7,024 (9.8)	6,756 (10.0)	7,127 (10.8)	7,142 (11.3)	6,797 (11.2)
Pneumonia:					
All forms.....	98,334 (137.3)	89,326 (132.7)	88,804 (132.0)	83,778 (132.4)	79,917 (132.3)
Bronchopneumonia.....	35,105	33,501	32,153	31,094	28,422
Lobar.....	54,699	44,138	33,911	32,615	30,003
"Pneumonia".....	8,330	11,672	14,740	20,039	21,492
Scarlet fever.....	2,355 (3.3)	2,419 (3.6)	4,340 (6.6)	5,498 (8.7)	4,038 (6.7)
Measles.....	7,947 (11.1)	3,649 (5.4)	4,461 (6.8)	8,108 (12.8)	4,240 (7.6)
Whooping cough.....	7,284 (10.2)	5,421 (8.1)	6,816 (10.3)	6,332 (10.0)	5,619 (9.3)
Diphtheria and eroup.....	10,367 (14.5)	10,544 (15.7)	11,786 (17.9)	11,920 (18.8)	11,013 (18.2)
All causes.....	1,001,921 (1,398.9)	909,155 (1,350.2)	898,059 (1,360.9)	890,848 (1,407.4)	838,251 (1,387.2)

* Figures in parentheses = rate per 100,000 population (from "Mortality Statistics," Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce Washington D. C.).

Communal Infections.—During last year Dr. D. C. Kirkhope, M.O.H., found it necessary to draw the attention of the Tottenham education committee to the increased prevalence of, what he designated, "communal" diseases since the outbreak of the war, and he ventures the opinion that they were largely due to soldiers returning from camps and from the front. He continued: Ringworm of scalp and body, impetigo, verminous conditions, scabies and such like unpleasantly preponderate among our minor ailment clinic cases, and it becomes increasingly important that teachers, attendance officers and nurses responsible for the scrutiny of children in schools, and the attendance of children at school, refer all children concerning whom they have the slightest doubt to the clinic for an expert opinion.—*The Medical Officer*.

Medical Education and State Boards of Registration

COMING EXAMINATIONS

ALABAMA: Montgomery, Jan. 14. Chairman, Dr. S. W. Welch, Montgomery.
ARIZONA: Phoenix, Jan. 7. Sec., Dr. Allen H. Williams, 219 Goodrich Bldg., Phoenix.
COLORADO: Denver, Jan. 7. Sec., Dr. David A. Strickler, 612 Empire Bldg., Denver.
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Washington, Jan. 14-16. Sec., Dr. Edgar P. Copeland, The Rockingham, Washington.
HAWAII: Honolulu, Jan. 6. Sec., Dr. J. R. Judd, Honolulu.
KANSAS: Topeka, Feb. 11. Sec., Dr. H. A. Dykes, Lebanon.
MINNESOTA: Minneapolis, Jan. 7-10. Sec., Dr. Thomas McDavitt, 741 Lowry Bldg., St. Paul.
MISSOURI: St. Louis, Jan. 28-30. Sec., Dr. G. H. Jones, State House, Jefferson City.
NEW MEXICO: Santa Fe, Jan. 13. Sec., Dr. W. E. Kaser, East Las Vegas.
NEW YORK: Jan. 28-31. Albany, Buffalo, New York City and Syracuse. Mr. Herbert J. Hamilton, Asst. Prof. Exams., New York Dept. of Education, Albany.
NORTH DAKOTA: Jan. 7. Sec., Dr. G. M. Williamson, 860 Belmont Ave., Grand Forks.
OKLAHOMA: Oklahoma City, Jan. 7-8. Sec., Dr. J. J. Williams, Weatherford.
OREGON: Portland, Jan. 7. Sec., Dr. H. S. Nichols, Corbett Bldg., Portland.
PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia, Jan. 7-9. Sec., Mr. Nathan C. Schaeffer, State Capitol, Harrisburg.
SOUTH DAKOTA: Pierre, Jan. 14. Sec., Dr. P. B. Jenkins, Waubay.
UTAH: Salt Lake City, Jan. 6. Corres. Sec., Dr. G. F. Harding, 405 Templeton Bldg., Salt Lake City.
VERMONT: Burlington, Feb. 11. Sec., Dr. W. Scott Nay, Underhill.
WASHINGTON: Spokane, Jan. 7-9. Sec., Dr. C. N. Suttner, 415 Old Nat'l Bk. Bldg., Spokane.
WISCONSIN: Madison, Jan. 14. Sec., Dr. J. M. Dodd, 220 E. 2d St., Ashland.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

From the following medical schools of Central and South America replies to questionnaires have been received by the Council on Medical Education which furnish a fair idea of the character of these institutions. Statements in regard to them are as follows:

Argentina

FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES OF CORDOBA, Cordoba, Argentina.—Organized in 1878. Completion of the six-year course of the secondary school admits to the medical course. The latter covers seven years; physics, chemistry and biology being given in the first two years. The faculty consists of 40 professors, 10 of whom are said to devote considerable time to scientific research work. There are also 34 instructors, or a total of 74 teachers. The institution has access to 350 beds in a hospital adjoining the college building, in connection with which also there is an outpatient department. Attendance is required at 30 necropsies, and the seniors are said, on the average, to attend about 20 maternity cases. There is a medical library having over 5,000 volumes, and from 60 to 70 medical periodicals are regularly received. There is a nucleus for a medical museum, but this has not been developed. The students enrolled are: first year, 90; second year, 81; third year, 75; fourth year, 63, and fifth years, 49, a total of 358.

FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES, Buenos Aires, Argentina.—Year of organization not given. Graduation from the six-year course in the secondary school admits to the medical course, which covers seven years. Premedical sciences are given in the first two years of the medical course. The faculty consists of 68 teachers, devoting on the average 3 hours per week to teaching besides the practical work. The usual laboratory courses of instruction are given. The college has access to 420 hospital beds and also to a dispensary said to have 15 consultation rooms and an average of about 500 patients daily. Students are required to witness postmortems in the hospital, there being altogether about 200 necropsies each year. Each student, also, must have attended at least 4 maternity cases. The college has a library of 48,000 volumes, including a full supply of medical periodicals. There is a medical museum containing nearly 6,000 anatomic and pathologic specimens. The students enrolled are: first year, 717; second year, 681; third year, 573; fourth year, 431; fifth year, 277; sixth year,