case, as a medical practice can not be bought and sold. In one of the suits the sale of the furnishings and practice had been made by the widow of a physician.

French Congress of Alienists and Neurologists.—The thirteenth annual congress of French alienists and neurologists will be held at Brussels, Aug. 1 to 8, 1903. The subjects announced for discussion are "Catatonia and Stupor," "Histology of General Paralysis," and "Treatment of Agitation and Insomnia in Mental and Nervous Disease."

The Esmarch Medal.—A gold medal was presented to von Esmarch on the occasion of his recent birthday. It is now proposed to give a bronze replica of the medal to persons or societies that have distinguished themselves in the first aid or Samaritan movement, as it is called in Germany. The first medal to be thus bestowed was presented to Prince Henry of Prussia, February 14.

The Social Medical Congress in Austria.—Dissatisfied with the efforts of the existing national medical organizations on behalf of their material interests, the physicians of Austria are organizing a national "Sozial-ärztlichen Congress," to discuss in general conclave the important questions of the day. The *Klin. Therap. Wochenschrift* quotes figures to the effect that 130 local medical associations are sending delegates.

Campaign Against Charlatans in Germany.—The last week brings the account of the condemnation of a faker at Plauen to a fine of \$25 for assuming a pseudo-medical title. At Hochlausen a faith-healer was condemned to ten days' imprisonment, and at Carlsruhe the director of a so-called hydro-pathic institute was fined \$75 for having treated a cancer subject with cold water alone. The authorities are discussing more stringent regulations against charlatans.

Charlatan Examinations.—A public examination of students trained in two Berlin "nature-healing" establishments was recently held there, the proceedings modeled on those of medical colleges. The report in the "*Nature-Healers' Gazette*" stated, among other items, that the students "passed a successful examination in the gynecologic examination of twelve male and twelve female patients, the latter suffering from gynecologic affections."

The Bulletin de l'Association Gen. des Medecins de France.—The newly created organ of the French Medical Association starts out with the intention, we are told, to fill in France the place occupied by the *British Med. Journal* in England and *THE JOURNAL* in this country. The French medical press is inclined to look askance at the newcomer, and the *Gazette Medicale de Paris* remarks that there is little chance of its realizing its ambition "unless it gets an American or English brain to take charge of it."

Correspondence.

The Biographic Clinics of Dr. Gould.

CHICAGO, March 14, 1903.

To the Editor:—The medical profession is under many obligations to Dr. George M. Gould, the vigorous editor of *American Medicine*. The last product of his fertile brain and productive pen is the "Biographic Clinics," a book of 233 pages. In writing this wonderful book he has done pioneer work in a most important department of medicine. He has shown conclusively that five of the greatest men in history were the subjects of eyestrain, which was responsible for all the agonies that made the busiest and most useful epochs in their lives a constant misery. The analysis of the symptoms related by themselves or their biographers is so logical that no doubt can be left in the minds of the careful reader concerning the correctness of the author's conclusions. There can be no doubt that thousands are affected in a similar manner to-day, and as any competent oculist can secure the necessary relief this class of patients should be reached by the profession. This little book should be in the hands of every physician and teacher, as it treats of a subject of a medical affection which, when overlooked or neglected, will bring ailments that will make life a constant misery, if not a total failure. N. SENN.

The Identity of Nerve Force and Electricity.

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 9, 1903.

To the Editor:—Referring to the paper of Dr. J. Emmet O'Brien, page 630 et seq. of *THE JOURNAL*, March 7, in which

he claims priority as to the identity of electricity and nerve force, etc., I very respectfully suggest that on reference to the Transactions of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, of Dec. 5, 1883, it will be found that the general principles of his paper have been long since anticipated by one on "Electricity and Nerve Force" presented by,

Very respectfully yours, JOSEPH T. HOWARD, M.D.

Maternal Impressions.

AIKIN, MICH., March 14, 1903.

To the Editor:—Baby S., a healthy seven-pound female baby, was born at full term on March 1, 1903. She has a prominent birthmark covering the left thumb and upper part of the arm, over the shoulder and slightly down the back. The mother had an accident three months before delivery. She was wearing an outing-flannel gown, the left sleeve of which was lighted from a match, and in a flash an area of the sleeve corresponding to the baby's birthmark was burned.

A. G. BELSHEIM, M.D.

Family Care of the Insane.

LEXINGTON, KY., March 16, 1903.

To the Editor:—Your editorial in the last number of *THE JOURNAL*, on family care of the harmless insane, leads me to suppose that you do not know that it has been continuously in use in Massachusetts since 1885. It was due, I believe, to the efforts of Dr. Henry R. Stedman of Boston, who wrote a most exhaustive paper on the subject. The matter was reviewed at the last meeting of the American Medico-Psychological Association.

GEO. P. SPRAGUE.

Book Notices.

THE MALARIAL FEVERS OF BRITISH MALAYA. Studies from Institute for Medical Research, Federated Malay States. By Hamilton Wright, M.D. (McGill), Director of the Institute for Medical Research, Federated Malay States. Paper. Price 3 shillings net. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1902.

This report, as stated by the author, does not represent an extensive study of malarial fevers of the British portion of the Malay peninsula, but he offers it as a first step, hoping it will call attention to the value of the field to European students of malaria. So far as the existing forms of malaria are concerned, they seem to be largely those met elsewhere. There is a predominance of the malignant tertian type, the mild tertian being only second in frequency. It appears that Europeans seldom contract malaria within their own quarters within the larger centers of population. They can nearly always date their infection to some out-station or jungle work in a specially malarial region. It is noticed as a remarkable fact that in a large prison where one species of anopheles abounds, malaria is almost unknown. The greatest sufferers seem to be the coolies and natives; among them are found the chief figures of morbidity and mortality. The tin mines of the Malay peninsula are ideal fever spots. The natives who live in large centers and neglect the hygienic measures followed by Europeans also suffer to a certain extent, and the native police are to a large extent agents of the transmission of the disorder from one section to another. A policeman breaks down in health in one place and is sent to another locality, which he also infects. This is a point to which Dr. Wright very properly calls the attention of authorities, as it is avoidable. The species of mosquitoes have been studied and the work contains valuable data in regard to prophylaxis and treatment, which he says is needed in these parts of British India. The first essentials are sanitary precautions, hydraulic drainage, clean surroundings and a well-regulated passion for quinin. The larger part of the work is a narration of cases and it concludes with accounts of the aspects of malaria in the different sections, contributed by government surgeons. In the very conclusion of the work an interesting statement is made by one of these that so far as known no case of blackwater fever has ever occurred in the Malay peninsula, notwithstanding the large doses of quinin that are habitually employed. This would seem