It would be a great advantage to me personally, and I believe to many others, if THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION should inaugurate the practice of publishing the contents of THE JOURNAL on the right hand page and utilize the left hand page for advertisements instead of grouping advertisements at the beginning and end of the book. This would have the double advantage of making the advertising space more valuable and of permitting the physician to clip freely interesting articles wherever he might find them.

No doubt this matter has already been considered by you, but I thought it worth while to bring it to your attention.

FRANK THOMAS WOODBURY, M.D.,
Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga.

Colonel, M. C., U. S. Army; Camp Surgeon.

AMENDMENT TO NEW YORK SANITARY CODE —ENDORSEMENT OF HEALTH BILL BY ORGANIZATIONS—RESOLUTION ON PROHIBITION AMENDMENT

To the Editor:—Among the items of Medical News from New York State and City published in THE JOURNAL, February 1, is one relating to an amendment to the Sanitary Code by the State Department of Health making the minimum isolation period for measles "at least five days after the appearance of the rash." For a number of years the New York City Department of Health circularized all those who were reported as suffering from measles to the effect that they could return to school "three days after the appearance of the rash," provided they were free from other symptoms of the disease. Attention being called to this statement, as we thought it was probably a misprint for "disappearance of the rash," a change was made to the effect that sufferers could return to school five days after the appearance of the rash, which is the period of isolation now adopted by the state department of health. Whatever may be the experience of public health officials which permits them to send hundreds of thousands of circulars every year to families afflicted with measles, permitting a return to school in from three to five days after the appearance of the rash, I venture to say that such experience is not duplicated at the bedside by the practicing physician once in a thousand times. In this field the measles patient who from three to five days after the "appearance of the rash" can safely be permitted or advised to return to school or work is as rare as the Irishman's "white blackbird."

Another item related to the action of 400 or 500 "bodies" in New York, represented by a council of organizations, in endorsing the Rankin-Robinson bill for the preservation of the existing bureaus of industrial hygiene, now before Congress. Although no distinctive names are mentioned for these bodies, they belong to the clan known collectively as "busybodies." This was omitted from publication.

One item of medical news that might perhaps interest the readers of THE JOURNAL is contained in the enclosed resolution presented at the meeting of the Medical Society of the County of New York, Jan. 27, 1919, which was referred to the Committee on Public Health. It is the first resolution, as far as I am aware, that has been presented to a medical body in opposition or in favor of the prohibition amendment to the constitution of the United States. Its presentation was noted in the chief papers.

Resolved, That the Medical Society of the County of New York opposes the ratification by the legislature of New York of the measure now before it for national prohibition as irrational, unscientific, and in opposition to the accepted usage of all civilized nations throughout the world, and as putting upon the medical profession the burden of prescribing and dispensing alcoholic beverages of proved therapeutic worth, while allowing the unlimited sale to the public of "patent," proprietary and quack remedies containing alcohol in varying amounts without control or hindrance by the officers of the state.

Its publication in THE JOURNAL should be of interest to your readers throughout the country.

JOHN P. DAVIN, M.D., New York.

"THE SUPPLY OF PRACTICAL NURSES"

To the Editor:—I am delighted with the editorial in THE JOURNAL, January 25, on the nursing profession. It is true, every word of it. I hope something will come of it.

CHARLES V. CHAPIN, M.D., Providence, R. I.
Superintendent of Health.

To the Editor:—I want to congratulate you on the very excellent editorial in THE JOURNAL, January 25, on the nursing situation. It seems to me to cover the subject very thoroughly, and should be the means of stirring up our profession all over the country to action on an unbearable situation. I hope that in the near future you will see it produce this effect.

HUGH N. MACKECHNIE, M.D., Chicago.
Secretary, Chicago Medical Society.

To the Editor:—I want to congratulate THE JOURNAL on the recent editorial on "The Supply of Practical Nurses," because there is so much of truth in it.

In New Jersey the Alumni Association of Nurses has a powerful grip on the politicians. Last winter the medical profession tried to have a law enacted which would throw the responsibility on the hospital that had nurses in training. Nothing was prohibitive in this measure on the applicant. She was to be tried out in her period of probation, but the hospital which would be allowed to have a training school was to come up to a standard. The training was to be standardized. The training in the school was also to be improved by having more ward and bedside work than mere brain stuffing. There was to be an inspectress who would report to a central governing body, and each year the status of the training schools was to be published. The nurses killed this effort. As a result the nursing profession is somewhat autocratic. There are not enough nurses for our work. The poor man cannot afford one. Most of the graduates become institutionalized, and the man sick in bed is neglected.

During the epidemic our hospitals had more kindly women, Red Cross "nurses," etc., than graduates. In that time the public obtained confidence and learned to love these kindly women, so that since then numerous patients are being attended by the sympathetic woman with gumption, and both the families and the attending physicians are thoroughly satisfied. Is not the time soon to come when the matter of training nurses will be radically changed?

G. K. DICKINSON, M.D., Jersey City, N. J.

HOSPITAL POSITIONS IN TASMANIA

To the Editor:—I am instructed by my council (Tasmanian Branch, British Medical Association) to ask you to put an "important notice" in THE JOURNAL requesting practitioners to communicate with the honorary secretary of this branch before accepting positions in the state-aided hospitals in Tasmania, e. g., Launceston General and Hobart General hospitals.

G. BRETTINGHAM-MOORE,
149 Macquarie St., Hobart, Tasmania.
Honorary Secretary, Tasmania Branch, British Medical Association.

[See THE JOURNAL, Oct. 12, 1918, p. 1241.]

CREDIT IT TO THE POSTOFFICE

To the Editor:—Just a word of thanks for the regularity with which you have mailed my copy of THE JOURNAL overseas. It has certainly been a pleasure to read its contents in this life, conspicuous for the absence of medical literature. On the banks of the Vesle and the Aisne, in the woods of the Argonne and up to the gates of Sedan it has been my good fortune to read its interesting articles.

C. M. FRANCHEN, M.D., A. E. F.
First Lieutenant, M. C., 308th Ambulance Company.