is worth while to imitate it. We cannot, probably, bring it to perfection in private practice, but we can come so near it that the lives of hundreds will be saved.

In conclusion, I have only to add, that it appears to me that the time is coming when one will not have used ordinary care, skill or judgment in obstetrical practice unless the usual (to say the least) antiseptic methods have been employed.

(To be concluded.)

STATE MEDICINE.

Action by Missouri State Medical Association regarding National Quarantine and State Sanitary Affairs.

The special committee appointed to consider and report on the suggestions and recommendations of the President's Address at the recent meeting of the Missouri State Medical Association, reported through their chairman, Dr. H. C. Dalton, of St. Louis, the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The experience of the past has shown that existing means relied upon for the protection of the people of the United States against the introduction of dangerous epidemic diseases from abroad are entirely inadequate to accomplish the desired object; and

WHEREAS, It being highly desirable, in order to insure such protection, that the measures employed shall be uniformly and systematically applied; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That, in the opinion of this Association, external quarantine measures should be under the control and direction of Federal authority to afford the highest degree of protection to the people of this country.

2. That this Association favor Congressional action looking to this end, as, in their judgment, there is present urgency for such legislation.

3. That copies of these resolutions be promptly forwarded by the Secretary to the Members and Senators of this State in Congress.

Also the following were passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, Recognizing the importance and value to the people of this State of a body clothed with official authority and provided with adequate financial means to enforce existing laws for the protection of the public against disease, the prevention of epidemics, and the furtherance of all wise measures designed to secure the sanitary welfare of the people of this State; therefore

Resolved, 1. That, reposing confidence in the wisdom, patriotism and ability of the State Board of Health as displayed in the midst of adverse circumstances, this Association approve the course and conduct of the Board, and pledge to its support in its work the influence and authority of this body.

2. That the members of this Association pledge themselves to actively exert their influence in their respective localities, during the coming year, in favor

of legislative action in support of the Board, and to enlighten their representatives in the General Assembly regarding the wishes of the Association in this respect.

3. That a special committee of three members on sanitary affairs be appointed by the President, with power to sit during the ensuing year, and advise with the Board in all matters concerning needed legislation for the more perfect protection of the public against disease.

Dr. F. J. Lutz, of St. Louis, Dr. J. E. Tefft, of Springfield, and Dr. B. G. Dysart, of Paris, were appointed members of the committee created in the last resolution.

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE

DR. CUSHING AND THE MURDOCK LIQUID FOOD HOSPITAL.

Dear Sir:—Your correspondent, W., in his letter published in THE JOURNAL of April 21, has fallen into certain errors concerning me which I desire to correct. In regard to my correspondence with the Chairman of the Committee on Ethics and Discipline of the Massachusetts Medical Society, your correspondent absolutely perverts the meaning of the letter of the Secretary of that Committee, recently published, and mentioned by W.

Mr. Murdock, in referring to my correspondence with the committee, copies of which he enclosed with his letter to the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, naturally fell into the technical error of supposing that my letter, addressed to the Chairman of that Committee as such, and answered by him, had necessarily been before the Committee officially. According to the aforesaid letter of the Secretary of the Committee, it appears that this was not the case, and that the letter of the Chairman of the Committee to me is to be considered as representing the opinions of himself, and of the other members of the Committee therein named, personally and unofficially. In either case the result was and is the same for me. The correspondence was in 1886, when, before becoming surgeon of the Murdock Hospital, I took sound and prudent advice, and put on record with the proper authority a statement of my proposed relations and position in the hospital. Neither my friends nor myself have seen any reason to be dissatisfied with my relations there since that time. I think that in common fairness you should publish the correspondence in question, copies of which you have already.

Although I do not know that the irrelevant assertions of your correspondent, W., concerning the *Annals of Gynecology*, of which I am editor, have any public interest, I may add that they are entirely erroneous and contrary to fact.

As your chatty correspondent does not publish his name, I have to conjecture the source of his inspiration from the animus legible between the lines of his letter.

Since, probably by accident, the letter has been

sent you just before the annual meeting of the Association, at which I hold a position in one of the Sections, I would beg you to insert this also before the meeting.

Very respectfully,

E. W. CUSHING.

Boston, April 23, 1888.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE PRESCRIPTION, Therapeutically, Pharmaceutically, and Grammatically considered. By OTTO A. WALL, M.D., Ph. G., Professor of Pharmacy in the Missouri Medical College, etc. 8vo, pp. 184. St. Louis: Aug. Gast Bank Note and Litho. Co., 1888.

Every one will agree with the author that a theoretical and practical knowledge of the construction of the prescription is of great importance to both physician and pharmacist. Dr. Wall seems to have gone more thoroughly into the subject than any previous writer. In regard to weights and measures he is particularly full and explicit, 36 pages of the book being devoted to this subject.

We cannot agree with the author, however, when he says: "It is wrong, for instance, to write 0.2 centigram, because many readers accustomed to using the metric system, would be apt to overlook the word centigram and read the above as 0.2 gram, which it would be if the figures stood alone without any designation. The above should be written 0.002 gram, or 2 milligrams;" or when he says: "Fractions of these values (centigrams and milligrams) should be expressed in prescriptions in common fractions, and not in decimal fractions, thus $\frac{1}{2}$ milligram, and not 0.5 milligram; $\frac{1}{4}$ centigram, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ milligram, and not 0.25 centigram." In writing prescriptions to be filled by a druggist not entirely familiar with the decimal system it may be safer to write as the author suggests, but the other method is still correct. It is a serious question whether the world and literature would not be better off if common fractions were consigned to oblivion. The mixing of common fractions in the metric system is about as bad as using dollars, shillings, kopeks, and pfennige in the same bill. Germany tried to improve on the metric system and failed; the system, as it stands, is better than any other, and no so-called improvement that has been suggested has any particular merit. As regards the mistaking of 0.2 centigram for 0.2 gram, it may be said that error is practically impossible if we write 0.2 centig.

But Dr. Wall has written a good book on prescriptions, and one that we can highly recommend.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VITAL STATISTICS IN ILLINOIS.—The report of the meeting of the Illinois State Board of Health, held on April 19 and 20, says: For the first time since the collection of vital statistics was begun all the counties have made returns of births and deaths. These, which are for the year 1887, show a general improvement and increased fullness. A total of 32,164 deaths

and a total of 62,337 births are reported for the whole State, being an increase of 2,762 death returns and 3,144 birth returns, as compared with the returns of the previous year. While there is noted this general improvement, a few counties still show a laxity of interest and consequent comparative imperfection of returns.

"THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS" was formed at Buffalo on April 19, it is said with a membership of 34. It will meet in Washington on September 18–20, 1888.

DETECTION OF DAMPNES IN WALLS.—J. Nessler says, in the *Chemiker Zeitung*, that a sheet of gelatine placed against a wall suspected of being damp will curl away from the wall if dampness exists.

A **SANITARY CONFERENCE AT SPRINGFIELD, ILL.**, will be held at an early date. It will be attended by health authorities of cities, towns and villages of Illinois to promote local sanitation.

DR. EDWARD G. LORING, the well-known ophthalmologist, died suddenly in New York City on Monday, April 23. He was about 51 years of age.

ILLEGAL PRACTICE IN NEW JERSEY.—The Essex County Medical Society has begun to take measures against the illegal practitioners of Newark, N. J.

BOARDS OF HEALTH IN OHIO.—By a new law in Ohio a board of health is to be established in every city or village containing more than 500 inhabitants.

THE NEBRASKA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY will meet in Lincoln early in June. The exact date has not been fixed.

THE MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY is a new college recently established in Detroit.

THE IOWA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY will meet at Iowa City on May 15.

OFFICIAL LIST OF CHANGES IN THE STATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS SERVING IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT U. S. ARMY, FROM APRIL 21, 1888, TO APRIL 27, 1888.

Lieut.-Col. Jos. C. Baily, Asst. Medical Purveyor, granted leave of absence for twenty days on surgeon's certificate of disability, with permission to apply for an extension. S. O. 92, A. G. O., April 21, 1888.

Lieut.-Col. J. C. Baily, Asst. Medical Purveyor, will transfer the public funds for which he is responsible, and the charge of the medical purveying depot in New York City, temporarily, to Capt. Henry Johnson, Medical Storekeeper. S. O. 92, A. G. O., April 21, 1888.

Par. 13, S. O. 89, A. G. O., April 18, is revoked by par. 1, S. O. 93, A. G. O., April 23, and Major Geo. M. Sternberg, Surgeon U. S. Army, is directed to proceed to the Island of Cuba for the purpose named in the letter of the President addressed to the Secretary of War on the 17th inst. Upon the completion of this duty will return to his proper station, and submit his report to the President on or before June 25, 1888.

Major R. S. Vickery, Surgeon, granted leave of absence for four months, with permission to apply for an extension of two months and to go beyond sea. S. O. 95, A. G. O., April 25, 1888.

The operation of par. 17 S. O. 79 c. s., A. G. O. (so much thereof as relates to Capt. Geo. E. Bushnell, Asst. Surgeon U. S. Army), is suspended until May 1, 1888. S. O. 90, A. G. O., April 19, 1888.

First Lieut. Leonard Wood, Asst. Surgeon, granted one month's leave of absence, with permission to apply for an extension of two months. S. O. 41, Dept. Ariz., April 18, 1888.

First Lieut. Chas. L. G. Anderson, Asst. Surgeon, granted one month's leave of absence from June 1, 1888. Resignation accepted by the President, to take effect July 1, 1888. S. O. 92, A. G. O., April 21, 1888.

OFFICIAL LIST OF CHANGES IN THE MEDICAL CORPS OF THE U. S. NAVY, DURING THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 28, 1888.

Medical Inspector A. S. Oberly, granted six months' leave, with permission to visit Europe.