growing that the evils from alcohol must be taken up as a great sanitary and medical topic. The recognition of the medical side of this evil, and the physical means required to cope with it, showed a great advance.

While this gathering was not particularly notable for new facts, it gave greater eminence to old theories and greater prominence to the need of more accurate study of this evil. There was something very stimulating in this hearty union of all classes for the study of the evils of alcohol; while many different societies and church associations have conflicting theories of the causes of and remedies for alcoholism, they all argue that certain general physical causes are traceable to it and can be removed.

The leading continental physicians and teachers are very emphatic in calling alcoholism a disease and urging medical treatment. The continental physicians appear to have much influence with laymen on matters of social and sanitary science, and hence are put forward prominently as leaders.

In the sectional meetings physicians were given a deferential hearing, more so than clergymen, and several French and Swiss physicians displayed unusual oratoric powers. A congress of this kind would be a great help to clear away the confusion which hangs over the subject in this country. Hundreds of physicians would welcome a general scientific study of this subject, and a public sentiment that would encourage efforts to find causes and remedies for this evil.

The foolish unfounded theories which cling to this topic are fast disappearing in Europe, and wine and beer drinking is as freely condemned as the excessive use of stronger spirits. Physicians, above all others, should teach the facts, and not be taught by laymen, or fear the popular opinions of persons who have little or no accurate knowledge.

T. D. CROTHERS, M.D.

Competitive Examinations.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, May 2, 1899.

To the Editor:—The letter of Dr. Bayard Holmes in last week's JOURNAL (see April 29, p. 927) meets with my hearty approval. I am and long have been convinced that a written examination, as an exclusive means of determining qualifications in any department, is fallacious. As a means of determining the ability of candidates for hospital internships, it is strikingly defective. I have no objection to written examinations as one way of finding out what a person may know, but they ought to occupy a subordinate place in the general plan of investigation. The reform method should embrace all that is now included in the written examinations, plus test exercises in the laboratories, in the mortuary and at the bedside of the sick. When this comprehensive plan is adopted, examining bodies may ascertain approximately what candidates may or may not know, and that is more than can be said of the present method.

Another pernicious feature of the present system is the preliminary porching to which intending applicants for hospital positions are subjected. If the mere cramming process were all of it, it would be bad enough, but it is not. In more than one city of my knowledge students are requested at the time of matriculation to declare their intention of going in for internships, and great rivalry exists between schools to score the largest winnings before these more or less farcical concerns. Students who enter for the race are coached from the beginning, not with the object of giving them a broad, symmetric and logic medical education, but with the object of making them familiar with the peculiar views of individual members of the examining body. Lists of old questions are a part of the stock in trade of professional coaches. Students are encouraged to miss regular lectures that may not have a direct and apparent bearing on the prospective examination. They are then permitted, in certain cities, to go up for the examinations at the

end of their junior year, returning to their respective schools for the finals, a twelvemonth later. They then get their diplomas after an actual attendance at the colleges, of probably less than two years, all told. When they go to their State licensing bodies for registration they all present certificates of actual attendance on four full courses of lectures in four separate years! How can these things be? Who knows? But what it is, and this that is, is a matter for the licensing bodies. It would not be in the least malapropos on the program of the coming meeting of the Confederation of State Examining and Licensing Bodies. It might not be amiss if Dr. Bayard Holmes' own organization, the Association of American Medical Colleges, would also throw its search-light in this direction. It would certainly be fruitful of better results than the recent endeavor to ostracize first-class medical college men who conducted three-year schools and were honest enough to say so. R.

Revision of Pharmacopeia.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1, 1899.

To the Editor:—In accordance with instructions given by resolutions passed at the National Convention for Revision of the Pharmacopeia of the United States of America, held in Washington, in 1890, I herewith give notice that a general convention for the revision of the pharmacopeia of the United States of America will be held in the City of Washington, D. C., beginning on the first Wednesday in May, 1900. It is requested that the several bodies represented in the convention of 1880 and 1890, and also such other incorporated State medical and pharmaceutic associations, and incorporated colleges of medicine and pharmacy, as shall have been in continuous operation for at least five years immediately preceding this notice, shall each elect delegates, not exceeding three in number; and that the surgeon-general of the army, the surgeon-general of the navy, and the surgeon-general of the marine-hospital service shall appoint, each, not exceeding three medical officers to attend the aforesaid convention.

It is desired that the several medical and pharmaceutic bodies, and the medical departments of the Army, Navy and Marine-Hospital Service, shall transmit to me the names and residences of their respective delegates, so soon as said delegates shall have been appointed, so that a list of the delegates to the convention may be published, in accordance with the resolutions passed at the 1890 convention for the revision of the pharmacopeia, in the newspapers and medical journals in the month of March, 1900.

Finally, it is further requested that the several medical and pharmaceutic bodies concerned, as well as the medical departments of the army, navy and marine-hospital service, shall submit the present pharmacopeia to a careful revision, and that their delegates shall transmit the result of their labors to Dr. Frederick A. Castle, 51 West Fifty-eighth Street, New York City, secretary of the Committee of Revision and Publication of the U. S. Pharmacopeia, at least three months before May 2, 1900, the date fixed for the meeting of the convention.

H. C. WOOD, M.D.

President of the National Convention for Revising the U. S. Pharmacopeia, held in Washington, D. C., A. D. 1890.

No Smallpox in Uniontown.

UNIONTOWN, PA., May 6, 1899.

To the Editor:—Under the caption of "Medical News," in the JOURNAL of May 6, you state Uniontown has eight cases of smallpox and that the government has ordered all mail fumigated, and that the freight and traffic business has been suspended.

I have been practicing medicine at this place for the past fifteen years and during all that time this is the first that I have ever heard that we had any smallpox. Allow me to correct

your statement and say that there is not and has not been any smallpox at this place for the past twenty years.

Very respectfully, JACOB S. HACKNEY, M.D.

[The correspondent who furnished us the item referred to will not repeat the offence.—ED.]

Current Medical Literature.

Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are noted below.

Chicago Medical Recorder, April.

- 1.—*Value of Resection of Sympathetic Ganglia of Neck in Cure of Epilepsy. Carl Beck.
- 2.—*Remarks on Histopathology of Syphilis. Maximilian Herzog.
- 3.—*Extragenital Chancere. L. Blake Baldwin.
- 4.—*Remarks on Primary and Secondary Syphilis. David Lieberthal.
- 5.—*Gummata and Chancere Redux. Henry G. Anthony.
- 6.—*Treatment of Syphilis. R. R. Campbell.
- 7.—*Seven One-Minute Points on Syphilis of the Nervous System. Hugh T. Patrick.
- 8.—*Reports on Surgical Cases. Weller Van Hook.
- 9.—Case of Aortic Aneurysm. O. T. Freer.
- 10.—Cystic Kidney. W. F. Dickson.

Archives of Ophthalmology (N. Y.), March.

- 11.—*Pathology of Amblyopia Following Profuse Hemorrhage and of that Following Ingestion of Methyl Alcohol, with Remarks on the Pathogenesis of Optic-Nerve Atrophy in General. Ward A. Holden.
- 12.—*Introduction of Iodoform into the Anterior Chamber of the Eye in Tubercular Iritis. N. J. Weill.
- 13.—A Case of Melanosarcoma of the Choroid. Matthias Lanckton Foster.
- 14.—*Electromagnets for Use with the 110-Volt Direct-Current Lighting Circuit. A. B. Kibbe.
- 15.—Clinic Contributions. Kaspar Pischel.
- 16.—Clinic Observations on a Case of Partial Incomplete Coloboma of the Iris. Arthur Gloor.
- 17.—Two Cases of Iridotomy Under Discouraging Conditions. F. M. Wilson.
- 18.—Clinic Experience with Haab's Powerful Electromagnet. Herman Knapp.
- 19.—Restoration of Conjunctival Cul-de-Sac in a Case of Total Symblepharon, by Means of Thiersch Skin Grafts. Charles H. May.
- 20.—Law of Listing and Some Disputed Points about its Proof. Carl Weiland.

Alienist and Neurologist (St. Louis), April.

- 21.—Outline of Psychiatry in Clinic Lectures. C. Wernecke.
- 22.—*Insanity Defined on the Basis of Disease. C. H. Hughes.
- 23.—Degeneracy Stigmata as a Basis of Morbid Suspicion. J. G. Kiernan.
- 24.—Imbecility and the Insanity of Imbecility Before the Law. C. H. Hughes.
- 25.—Case of Bilateral Athetosis, with Some Unusual Symptoms. Given Campbell.
- 26.—Syphilis and Insanity. Edoardo Collotti.

Annals of Otolaryngology, Rhinology and Laryngology (St. Louis), February.

- 27.—*Remarkable Case of Plastic Operation on the Face; Formation of Eyelids and Total Restoration of Nose. Carl Beck.
- 28.—*Trachoma of the Conjunctiva and its Relation to Diseases of the Nose. Dr. Zeim.
- 29.—*Nasal Insufficiency Due to Exaggerated Prominence of Anterior Arch of Cervical Vertebrae. James E. Newcomb.
- 30.—Delusional Insanity Resulting from Auditory Concussion. L. R. Culbertson.
- 31.—Bilateral Aural Lesion Following Traumatism. James F. McCaw.
- 32.—Treatment of Uncomplicated Suppuration of the Middle Ear. H. A. Alderson.

New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, May.

- 33.—Signs and Tests of Death. Justin Herold.

Peoria Medical Journal, April.

- 34.—Erysipelas-Phlegmonous. J. W. Hensley.
- 35.—*Myxedema. F. C. Robinson.
- 36.—The Doctor as a Collector. J. E. Coleman.

Southern California Practitioner (Los Angeles), April.

- 37.—*Management of Pulmonary Hemorrhage. Norman Bridge.
- 38.—*Intubation of the Larynx. B. F. Church.
- 39.—*The Pineal Gland or the Third Eye. B. M. Davis.
- 40.—Intestinal Obstruction. J. B. Murphy.
- 41.—Hypertrophy of the Pharyngeal Tonsil and its Relation to Ear Troubles. H. Bert Ellis.
- 42.—Nutmeg Poisoning. Walter Lindley.

Medicine (Detroit), May.

- 43.—*Ignaz Philip Semmelweis, Discoverer of Cause of Childbed Fever.
- 44.—*Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever as Set Forth in an Essay by Oliver Wendell Holmes.
- 45.—*Contagion and Infection in Nervous and Mental Diseases and Degeneracy, and Measures of Prevention. Richard Dewey.
- 46.—*A Late Form of Gonorrheal Cystitis in the Female. Gustav Kolischer.
- 47.—*Etiology, Prevalence and Treatment of Hysteria. U. O. B. Wingate.
- 48.—Border-Line of Insanity. James C. Patterson.

Archives of Pediatrics (N. Y.), May.

- 49.—Meningitic Typhoid Fever; Acute Yellow Atrophy of the Liver; Two Cases of Thigh Friction in Infants. J. P. Crozer Griffith.
- 50.—*Recent Advances in Surgery of the Skull. Seneca D. Powell.
- 51.—*Report of Twenty-five Cases of Laryngeal Diphtheria Treated by Antitoxin and Intubation. Theodore J. Elterich.
- 52.—*Successful Treatment of Chorea with Trional and Sulphonol. J. Howe Adams.

Medical Mirror (St. Louis), April.

- 53.—*Arteriosclerosis. James T. Whittaker.
- 54.—*Syphilitic Chancere of the Conjunctiva. Flavel B. Tiffany.

Fort Wayne Medical Journal-Magazine, April 1.

- 55.—The Revival of the Dead. William P. Whery.

St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal, May.

- 56.—*Toxicity of Tobacco and a Method of Eradicating It. Heinrich Stern.
- 57.—*Odorless Iodoform. A. H. Ohman-Dumesnil.

- 58.—*A New Operation for Hernia. Emory Lanphear.

St. Paul Medical Journal, May.

- 59.—*Fistula Colli Congenita. J. Collins Warren.
- 60.—*Nephrectomy for Renal Tuberculosis, with Report of a Case. Edward Reynolds.

Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery (Toronto), May.

- 61.—*Clinical Report on Three Cases of Unusual Interest. Thomas H. Manley.
- 62.—*Remarks on the Treatment of Clubfoot, based on the Personal Experience of Three Hundred Cases. B. E. McKenzie.
- 63.—Correlation of Insanity and Crime. Ezra Hurlburt Stafford.

Hot Springs Medical Journal, April.

- 64.—*Treatment of Syphilis. R. R. Campbell.
- 65.—*Seven One-Minute Points on Syphilis of the Nervous System. Hugh T. Patrick.

Tri-State Medical Journal and Practitioner (St. Louis), April.

- 66.—Great Bells of Edinburgh. Joseph Bell.
- 67.—*Toxicologic Chemistry in Gastric Diseases. John Zahorsky.
- 68.—Pediculosis. A. H. Ohman-Dumesnil.

Western Clinical Recorder (Chicago), March.

- 69.—*Acute Articular Rheumatism. Arthur R. Edwards.
- 70.—*A Case of Interstitial Tubal Pregnancy, Operated in the Fifth Month Before the Occurrence of Rupture. O. G. Pfaff.
- 71.—*Treatment of Acute Endocarditis by Sulphuretted Saline Baths. E. Arman Fletcher.
- 72.—*Surgery of the Kidney. Bayard Holmes.
- 73.—*Weather Affections. W. Stuart Leech.

Southern Practitioner (Nashville, Tenn.), May.

- 74.—*Immunity and Susceptibility. I. A. McSwain.
- 75.—Chronic Gastritis. W. C. Bilbrow.

Medical Register (Richmond, Va.), April 15.

- 76.—*A Consideration of Tuberculosis and Lateral Curvature of the Spine, with Reference to the Treatment and Ancient and Modern Spinal Support. A. M. Phelps.
- 77.—*Oxaluria—Its Clinic Significance. Robert F. Williams.

Texas Medical News (Austin), April.

- 78.—*Intermittent Fever. A. Schirman.
- 79.—*Report on Balantidia Coli (Intestinal Infusorium). A. Schirman.
- 80.—*Examination of the Eyes of School Children. B. L. Milliken.
- 81.—*Hypodermic Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, with Clinic Reports. Charles Wilson Ingraham.
- 82.—*Creosote in Phthisis Pulmonalis. L. H. Warner.

New Yorker Medicinische Monatschrift, April.

- 83.—*Syphilis und Gesichtslähmung. Joseph Fraenkel.

Medical Herald (St. Joseph), April.

- 84.—*Ventral Hernia Following Operations, and Its Prevention. E. E. Montgomery.
- 85.—*A Clinical Report of Cases of Abscess of the Liver. Edwin Frazer Wilson.
- 86.—Report of Regular Surgical Clinic at the Augustana Hospital, Chicago. A. J. Ochsner.
- 87.—Address to the Graduating Class of the Ensworth Medical College of St. Joseph. W. J. Bell.
- 88.—Some Causes that Contribute to Failure in the Treatment of Nasal Catarrh. John A. Hale.

Pediatrics (N. Y.), May.

- 89.—*Pathogenesis of Gastro-enteric Disease in Infants. John Zahorsky.
- 90.—Infant Feeding. A. W. Kratzsch.
- 91.—Colic. Philip F. Barbour.
- 92.—*Note on Epidemic of Malignant Scarlet Fever Occurring at Clearfield, Pa. S. D. Bailey.

Medical Age (Detroit), April 25.

- 93.—An Address to Graduates. Donald Maclean.
- 94.—Operation for the Correction of a Rectocele, a Cystocele, Displaced Uterus and Lacerated Cervix. Barton Cooke Hirst.
- 95.—*Antiseptic Treatment of Typhoid Fever. A. G. Ellis.
- 96.—Mydriatics and Myotics in General Practice. J. A. L. Bradfield.

Maryland Medical Journal, May 6.

- 97.—Radical Treatment of Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media. H. O. Reik.
- 98.—Gelsemium Semper-virens. Noble P. Barnes.

Cincinnati Lancet-Clinic, May 6.

- 99.—Tubercular Annotations. H. H. Spiers.
- 100.—Apples for Constipation. Geo. J. Monroe.

Medical Record (N. Y.), May 6.

- 101.—*Some of the Objections to the Neuron Theory. Stewart Paton.
- 102.—*The Third Hitherto Undecided Disease of the Ovary: Myxomatous Degeneration. Mary A. Dixon Jones.
- 103.—*Intussusception in an Infant Nine Months Old: High Rectal Injection: Recovery. W. P. Northrup.
- 104.—*Appendicitis or Salpingitis with Complications and a Report of Some Unusual Cases. Thomas H. Hawkins.

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, May 4.

- 105.—*Abuse of Medical Charity: The Passing of the "Charity" Hospital and Its Dispensary. Agnes C. Vietor.
- 106.—*Cases of Dislocation of the Os Magnum. Samuel L. Abbott.
- 107.—*Inversion of the Uterus. H. E. Marion.

Medical Review (St. Louis), May 6.

- 108.—*Therapeutic Value of Soluble Silver. John Zahorsky.
- 109.—Capsulo-tenectomy. Frank W. Hilscher.

Medical News, May 6.

- 110.—*On the Use of Antistreptococcal Serum in Infection by Streptococcus. A. T. Bristow.
- 111.—*Unusual Localizations of Tuberculosis. Aldred Scott Warthin.
- 112.—Eclampsia from the Surgical Standpoint. George L. Broadhead.

New York Medical Journal, May 6.

- 113.—Report of a Case of Removal of the Gasserian Ganglion with the Second and Third Divisions of the Fifth Nerve. Hartley-Krause Operation. John F. Erdmann.
- 114.—*Gastrodiaphany in the Infant. Henry Koplik.
- 115.—*Treatment of Syphilis. Boleslaw Lapowski.