in the middle West, when he writes a bald two-page advertisement, such as I have before me, of a "Pill of Life," a typical lost-manhood cure—saw palmetto, phosphorus, strychnin, iron—signed with the full name and title of its writer. This is a sad prostitution of what should be an honored position to a disreputable purpose—that of lending respectability to the advertisement of such a remedy. It has, however, at least one merit: there are no false pretenses. "Goods paid for and delivered" can be read plainly in every line, and the blush of the writer seems to suffuse the page. One can only hope that this is the first and last offense.

There is another, and even more pathetic tale, of a true scientist who had earned the everlasting gratitude of the medical profession, but who was forced by financial straits to risk his dearly earned reputation in testimonial writing. The lapse was but temporary, and into one of the most legitimate forms of the business, but one can easily imagine what it must have cost him. Are these pangs of conscience, this loss of self-respect, not to speak of the respect of others—are these ever worth the meager price? That is a question which each man must decide for himself. But to those honest enthusiasts who think that they are benefitting humanity by writing testimonials—to these I would say: Await results before you commit yourself. When you have written a testimonial, lay it aside for a year—the world can afford to wait that long—and then see whether you are still as enthusiastic. Remember that most testimonials outlive the enthusiasm of their writers; that a testimonial which has left your hands is out of your control—you can not effectively stop the abuses to which the business interests of the manufacturer may put your well-meant endorsement.

(To be continued.)

Correspondence

Use of Alcohol in Medicine.

HOMER, N. Y., May 18, 1908.

To the Editor:—The department of medical temperance of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union has for some years been endeavoring to instruct women regarding the danger of the use of alcoholic liquors and other powerful drugs as family remedies. This work has been done by the circulation of leaflets and pamphlets embodying the teachings of leading medical men, who make little or no use of alcoholic drinks in the treatment of disease, and who warn against the self-prescription of habit-forming drugs.

As superintendent of this work for the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, I have received much help from physicians; indeed, without such assistance it would have been presumptuous for me to undertake such a task. It is my wish to secure, so far as possible, the cooperation of physicians all over the country. I should be very grateful for copies of pamphlets bearing on the alcohol question, or on the nostrum evil, or the drug habit. I should also like to receive for publication brief opinions of the medical use of alcoholic liquors from physicians who are in sympathy, to some extent, with the views of the late Nathan S. Davis, and of such men as Sir Frederick Treves and Sir Victor Horsley. I should like especially to receive such opinions from professors of medicine and from physicians having large hospital experience. The publication of such medical opinions as I have been able to gather from kind replies to my personal inquiries, and from medical journals, has been an important factor in the anti-saloon fight in the southern states.

May I ask that physicians who are in sympathy with this medical temperance movement will send me at least their names and addresses? Anyone who would be willing to give public addresses in his own city or town, under the auspices of women's organizations, on alcohol or on the nostrum evil, or on public health generally, I should be very glad to list for reference.

It may interest physicians to know that I have sent out about 10,000 copies of the "Great American Fraud" during the last three months, and I hope to use many more. As I was the originator of the public agitation against "patent" medicines I am naturally delighted to have this pamphlet to circulate.

MRS. MARTHA M. ALLEN.

A New Cure Alleged for Syphilis.

CHICAGO, May 16, 1908.

To the Editor:—In these days of progress, scientific and commercial, it is indeed a startling discovery that will shock us out of our self-satisfied contentment with the wonderful century in which we live. The other evening, however, I sat up and took notice. I had picked up, in an idle moment, a recent number of a little magazine called *Eternal Progress*, devoted to the development of the individual by autosuggestion. I was in search of the ludicrous, which I had often found on its most seriously written pages, when my attention was caught by the following query from a disciple:

Some years ago I contracted syphilis, and as I am about to marry, would like to find a remedy. Would dieting for thirty days produce a cure?

R.

Then I read, to my surprise and delight, what ought to make the proud discoverer famous as the greatest benefactor of the human race since Jenner. I quote *verbatim*:

The best remedy for any venereal or blood disease is fasting. A fourteen day fast will cure most cases. Mild cases could be cured in a fast of eight or ten days. The proper way to fast is to take no food whatever; but to drink an abundance of cool water. The mind should be calm, and should deeply feel that no food will be required during the fast.

Give no thought to food; but think only of your object in view, and fully expect to secure the desired results.

Try to prevent all ills by right living and right thinking; but should ailments come, combine metaphysical methods of cure with fasting, and you will soon be well. Ordinary ills can be cured by fasting three or four days, and in less time if metaphysical methods are employed. The same results may be obtained by living wholly on a limited amount of raw fruit, perfectly ripe; but thirty, sixty or ninety days would be required.

What a noble mind is this! With what easy grace all human ailments are disposed of! What can equal the audacity of pretentious ignorance! For ignorance we, in charity, must assume it to be. But stay. Perhaps in our haste we have misjudged. In view of the approaching marriage of the correspondent, his evident neglect of treatment (or how could he ask such a fool question?) and his conscientious desire to protect the partner of his joys, perhaps it would be sufficient to emphasize the editor's treatment, and prescribe an absolute fast of sixty days. Better still, quicker and requiring less mental effort to "give no thought to food; but think only of your object in view," let him hold his breath for a short time, say sixty-seven minutes, and he need never fear a recurrence of his dread disease.

But seriously, should not the editor be compelled to limit his advice to "explaining fully the nature of cosmic consciousness," as he does on the opposite page with great lack of clarity? When the apostle of the oversoul begins to treat syphilis by a two-weeks fast isn't it time to put the brakes on *Eternal Progress* and find out what the results will be?

A. W. STILLIANS.

"Milk and Tuberculosis."

CHICAGO, May 16, 1908.

To the Editor:—I have read with great interest the article on this subject by Dr. Gorton in *THE JOURNAL*, May 16, 1908. As the doctor was kind enough to quote remarks I made at the meeting of the New York State Medical Society, please publish these corrections. The institution was not the Infant Asylum, but the New York City Children's Hospital. Twenty-nine cows and one bull were tested. Twenty-six cows reacted. Seventeen of them are marked on the veterinarian's postmortem report as having many tuberculous foci in the lungs. One only had a diseased udder, and she had no lung involvement, though the retropharyngeal glands were also involved. Twenty-two were generalized, eleven having involved posterior mediastinal glands and five diseased pleura. Dr. W. H. Park had samples of milk and feces taken from each cow and injected into guinea-pigs. After six weeks they were killed and none showed tuberculosis.

The children were given Calmette's test and the von Pirquet inoculation. Nine-tenths of those who reacted had obvious cause for it, but in one-tenth tuberculosis was unsuspected or had been previously cured. These facts prove little but show that a badly infected herd does not necessarily give virulent milk as shown intentionally in the guinea-pig inoculations and unintentionally in the case of the children.

WILLIAM L. STOWELL.

Association News

OUR FOREIGN GUESTS.

The information necessary for the following biographic sketch of Dr. Jansen was not forthcoming until the form containing the other biographies (page 1792) was on the press.

Albert Jansen.

Albert Jansen was born in 1859 at Hildesheim, Prussia; he studied medicine at Tübingen, Göttingen and Munich, graduating at the latter place in 1884. He was assistant to Bernhard Bardenheuer at Cologne from 1884 till 1887 and to Johann Lucae at Berlin from 1887 till 1897. He has been privat docent at the University of Berlin since 1895 and is the author of many publications dealing with suppuration of the nose and ear. Dr. Jansen will open the discussion on the symposium on the "Technic of Cranial Surgery" at the joint meeting of the Sections on Surgery and Anatomy and Laryngology and Otology.

VISIT THE A. M. A. BUILDING.

Members Should Inspect the Association's Plant and Equipment.

The American Medical Association holds its session this year in the city of its headquarters. All members are cordially invited to visit the Association building at 103 Dearborn Avenue. It may be reached from the business center by taking a North State Street car to Indiana Street, and then walking west to Dearborn Avenue. If one is in the vicinity of the First Regiment Armory, one may take a Wabash Avenue or State Street car and transfer down town to one of the cars first mentioned, or one may walk four blocks west from the Armory to Clark Street and take a north-bound "Route 22" car which goes straight through the business district to the North Side. One may leave this car at Indiana Street as first described.

REGISTER EARLY.

Importance of Early Registration on Monday to Avoid Congestion.

Members are earnestly requested to register as early as possible. It will be a great advantage if those who are in Chicago on Monday will register on that day. Those who arrive early Tuesday morning should register, if possible, before the General Meeting which takes place at 10:30; they will be ready to attend the section meetings which commence at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The place of registration is the First Regiment Armory, corner of Sixteenth Street and Michigan Avenue.

BRING YOUR POCKET CARD.

Members are urged to bring with them their pocket cards of membership. This will save them not only time and annoyance, but will facilitate registration of others.

More Railroad Rates.

The Eastern Canadian Passenger Association has made a rate of one and one-half fares, good going and returning over the same route only. Tickets will be on sale from Kingston, Sharbot Lake, Renfrew and west on May 28, 29, 30 and June 1; east of these points on May 27, 28, 29 and 30.

The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad and the Chicago & Alton Railroad have made a rate of one and one-half fare.

The above announcements have been received since the last statement in THE JOURNAL concerning railroad rates. In the issue of May 16, page 1623, we recorded the fact that the New England Passenger Association, the Trunk Line Association and the Central Passenger Association had granted a rate of one and one-half fare.

Alumni Meetings.

An especial feature of the Chicago session will be "Alumni Night." Tuesday evening will be given up to the banquets and other entertainments given by the various Sections of the Association, and to the reunions of the various colleges. A long list of these reunions and entertainments was given in THE JOURNAL, May 16, indicating that "Alumni Night" will be a gala occasion. The general alumni headquarters will be on the second floor of the Auditorium Hotel, Congress St. and Michigan Ave. Members are requested to register there as early as possible.

The following additional announcements have been received:

COLUMBIA: The alumni of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the City of New York (Columbia University) are to attend the Majestic Theater on the evening of June 2, after which there will be a lunch and smoker at Tom Jones' Restaurant.

HARVARD: The local alumni of Harvard Medical School plan to entertain visiting Harvard medical men during the session of the American Medical Association, June 2-5. Headquarters will be at the General Alumni Headquarters in the Auditorium, where a register of Harvard men will be kept and where any information may be obtained concerning the session and Association affairs. An informal dinner (each cover \$2) will be given at the Great Northern Hotel, June 2, at 6 p. m., at which every man holding any degree from the university will be welcome. The committee requests that acceptances be mailed at once to Dr. Henry F. Lewis, Room 1404, 42 Madison Street, Chicago.

NORTHWESTERN (1892): The class of 1892 of the Northwestern University Medical School have a reunion and dinner at the Chicago Athletic Club on the evening of Friday, June 5.

Will Entertain Visiting Mystic Shriners.

Medinah Temple A. A. O. N. M. S. will hold a special meeting in honor of visiting Nobles in attendance on the Chicago session of the American Medical Association Friday evening, June 5, at Walton Place and Dearborn Avenue.

Miscellany

Damages for Fraudulent Testimonial Used by Pinkham Company.

A case in law, revealing a shameless practice, was that which Miss Frances Wynne brought on May 12 last against the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Company. The plaintiff, a comely and healthy young woman of 22 years, had been a salesgirl in a New York department store. Her photograph had at one time taken a prize in a newspaper "beauty contest." One morning thereafter she found the young women with whom she had been working vastly amused over a newspaper containing her portrait, in "low cut dress," and with the following testimonial accompanying it:

"Miss Elizabeth Wynn, of 205 Eighth Avenue, New York City, writes: 'For months I suffered with dreadful headaches, pain in the back and severe hemorrhages, was weak and out of sorts all the time. Lydia E. Pinkham's vegetable compound helped me when all other medicines had failed. It seemed to be just what I needed and quickly restored my health.'"

The advertisement appeared also in other New York newspapers. This had not been the plaintiff's address, and the spelling of her name had been slightly changed. The portrait was certainly hers. How had it come into the hands of the