EXCRETORY MATTER IN EXPIRED AIR.

An interesting series of observations is being carried on under the direction of PROFESSOR ATWATER of the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn., on the respiratory excretion and the animal heat in the human subject. PROFESSOR ATWATER and a colleague have for several years been perfecting the apparatus and have now probably as perfect a respiration calorimeter as is possible at the present time, and have, moreover, found among their associates intelligent and willing subjects for experiment; one of them, PROFESSOR TOWER, of the Wesleyan University, having already served for one series of observations covering five days, and a colleague, MR. A. W. SMITH, for a still longer series. This is a kind of physiologic experimentation to which not everyone would be willing to submit, and yet one that can not be objected to by any anti-vivisectionist.

The earlier experiments of PETTENKOFER with this method of determining the respiratory products were necessarily imperfect and his results as regards the measurement of the heat given off still more so, and at best only coarse approximations to the facts. By enlisting in the experiments the intelligence of the subjects and securing an especially high grade of this requisite the value of the investigation ought to be materially augmented, and altogether the conditions in these experiments appear to be particularly favorable for the attainment of valuable results. Their theoretical importance in elucidating the questions of physiologic conservation of energy is very great, but more interest will probably be generally taken in their practical applications in demonstrating the value of different diets as favoring work in general or in employment of various kinds. In this way they can throw light on many economic problems and be of direct service to the world.

PROFESSOR TOWER has published an account of his five days' seclusion in the calorimeter chamber, which is of interest as showing the easy practicability of such experiments. When the results are fully worked out and given to the world one can better judge as to their success and value, which last can hardly fail to be considerable. With the continuation of the observations it is to be hoped that many important questions will be solved, and that the more or less imperfect data obtained from PETTENKOFER's observations which have been so long one of the chief sources of our information on this subject, will be very extensively and adequately supplemented.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"A Question of Priority in the Abortive Treatment of Typhoid Fever."

To the Editor:—"La politesse ne coûte rien." In the issue of the JOURNAL of March 21, 1896, under the caption "A Question of Priority in the Abortive Treatment of Typhoid

Fever," there appears over the signature of Arthur J. Hall, a remarkable criticism of the paper on typhoid fever which I read before the Mississippi Valley Medical Association at Hot Springs, Ark., on Nov. 21, 1894. From this critique I make the following quotations: "Dr. Woodbridge expounded his so-called abortive treatment of typhoid fever, giving three polypharmic formulæ, with instructions for their use, and claimed he had had twelve years' experience with this treatment. The formulæ contain guaiacol carbonate to the extent of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. This claim of twelve years' experience with guaiacol carbonate is at variance with a statement of the manufacturers of the drug." Now it is not true that I did in this paper or in any other written or oral communication, claim to have had twelve years' experience with any one drug or any single combination of remedies. On the contrary, I have on several occasions denied having been guilty of any routinism in the treatment of typhoid fever, until forced to it by the necessity of simplifying (that it might be published in an intelligible form) the somewhat complex course of medication which constitutes my method of managing the disease, and later by the results which I have invariably obtained from the use of the tablets and soft capsules which are prepared for me by Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co.

Moreover, I have outlined in several of my articles the whole series of investigations in the fruitful field of the application of antiseptic medicine to the cure of diseases, which finally culminated in a choice (for the abortive treatment of typhoid fever) of the three formulæ mentioned.

If Dr. Hall will turn to page 210 of my book, "Typhoid Fever and its Abortive Treatment," he will find this explanation: "The narration of my failures and partial successes with all of the various agents from turpentine and the sulphites to iodine, which were one after another used and abandoned, would be a waste of time and space and would, I fear, exhaust the reader's and hearer's patience, although it might save future explorers the trouble of testing unreliable antiseptics. The only one of these earlier remedies which I still occasionally use is turpentine. Creasote has been displaced by its active principle, guaiacol, and that by the more potent and non-toxic guaiacol carbonate."

Thus the evolution was a natural one from creasote to guaiacol absolute and from guaiacol absolute to guaiacol carbonate; just as eucalyptol was suggested to my mind by the use and beneficial effects of turpentine.

If Dr. Hall had taken the trouble to inform himself he would have learned that the whole subject has been discussed until it has become so trite that there is nothing new to say upon it, and if he will give the matter that careful consideration which its importance merits, he will discover that something more than the "excellent results" which he has observed from the "so-called Woodbridge treatment" may be expected if it is intelligently applied, and that the "amelioration of symptoms" which may be obtained alike from carbonate of guaiacol and many other intestinal antiseptics does not constitute all of the results of the "abortive treatment" for typhoid fever, "the claims" of which are "well-founded."

The article closes with: "Dr. Woodbridge may be entitled to credit for introducing the drug to the profession in the United States, but I believe it would have redounded more to his credit had he told us to begin with that he imbibed his inspiration from the experiments of Dr. Hoelscher, of Mühlheim on the Rhine."

I regret having left anything unsaid or unwritten which could have "redounded to his (my) credit," but I had advised an abortive treatment for typhoid fever more than ten years before Dr. Hoelscher published or made his experiments, and had used carbonate of guaiacol long before I ever heard of Dr. Hoelscher and long before Messrs. Schering and Glatz (in 1894) issued the little advertising circular from which it appears that

Dr. Hall extracts the learned quotation which he evidently wishes us to accept as coming from the *Allgemeine Medicinische Central-Zeitung*.

For comparison I reproduce Dr. Arthur J. Hall's quotation and beside it the original, which the advertisers do not mark as a quotation.

FROM DR. ARTHUR J. HALL'S
LETTER.

In the *Allgemeine Medicinische Central-Zeitung*, 1893, Nos. 45 and 46, Dr. Fritz Hölscher gives an interesting account of his experiences with guaiacol carbonate as an intestinal antiseptic, more especially in typhoid fever.

I am at a loss to understand by what peculiar process of cerebration Dr. Hall creates evidence that Dr. F. von Heyden's successors at Radebeul, Germany, had never heard of my having treated typhoid fever with guaiacol carbonate because Messrs. Schering and Glatz of New York have mentioned the fact that Dr. Hoelscher had done so, and while I have no means of knowing that Dr. Heyden's successors had then or have yet heard of me, I protest against Dr. Hall making public declaration to the contrary unless he has some better source of information than an advertising circular issued by a New York drug house.

I protest, too, against Dr. Hall taking it upon himself to fix so high a standard of morality for me, while he has himself garbled my language, misstated my claims, and accused me of an offense of which I am *not*, and he *is*, guilty.

Can it be that he is endeavoring to pose as a reader of a standard German medical periodical which he seems not to have seen? Does he wish to palm off a quotation from a little advertising circular of an American drug house, as coming from a German publication of recognized standing, without giving the credit which is justly due the advertiser, while criticising me for failing to mention the partial success of Hoelscher in the treatment of typhoid fever, which I had so completely mastered so many years before?

I am, etc., JOHN ELIOT WOODBRIDGE, M.D.

A Wisconsin Diploma Mill.

SEATTLE, WASH., April 10, 1896.

To the Editor:—Knowing that the JOURNAL as well as its many readers will give its help to discourage frauds in the profession, and especially in regard to "Bogus and Cheap (so-called) Medical Schools and Colleges," I therefore send you the following "interesting" correspondence:

A few weeks ago my attention was attracted to the following advertisement which appeared in the *Pharmaceutical Era* bearing the date of March 12, 1896:

"WANTED—Pharmacists who desire legally to append M.D. to their name. Address Medico, 1809 Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee, Wis."

I at once wrote to the "Medicus" and in due time received the stock printed letter marked I. This last letter I also answered stating that I was very desirous to practice in the interior and for him to forward the questions. In due time letter marked II came to hand and the questions to be answered. With these I also enclose marked III.

Is it possible that the Wisconsin legislature granted a charter to such an institution? Can it be possible that a city has such an array of eminent medical men as she contains to-day, will permit such an *ulcer* to live and thrive in their midst? Can not something be done to prevent the traffic of medical diploma vending? There is no telling how many of these bogus sheepskins have been sold. Medical men of repute and standing should by all honorable means stamp this Hydra out of existence.

FROM SCHERING & GLATZ'S
ADVERTISEMENT.

In the *Allgemeine Medicinische Central-Zeitung*, 1893, Nos. 45 and 46, Dr. Fritz Hölscher gives an interesting account of his experiences with guaiacol carbonate as an intestinal antiseptic, especially in typhoid fever.

Medical examiners on boards of health should carefully scrutinize each and every diploma that comes under their observation, that it should not read emanating from this "institution." It is, too, very deplorable that such a well known and worthy journal as the *Pharmaceutical Era* should lend its columns to such an enterprise.

The so-called president, directors, secretary and treasurer are all "M.D.'s" and yet I can not find any of these names among the thousand medical men in the Medical Directory of the United States.

Trusting you will give this such publicity as your wisdom may think worthy, I remain

Very respectfully, EMIL BORIES, M.D.

I.

WISCONSIN ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE,
1809 Fond du Lac Avenue,
MILWAUKEE, WIS., March 24, 1896.

MR. EMIL BORIES, Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:—Replying to your letter of application of March 19, for particulars of our College, we have pleasure in forwarding with this our latest prospectus, which if you will carefully go over, will explain to you our mode of working. And after reading, if you will submit to us, fully and confidentially any doubts or seeming difficulties which may have suggested themselves; will on our part to do all we can to give (in extenso), thoroughly satisfactory replies and explanations.

Further, it would be of great benefit if in your reply, you would give us some idea of what medical knowledge or experience you have. This knowledge will enable us the better to advise you how to act, so as to obtain the desired M.D. degree. The obtaining of a medical diploma is a very great event in any person's life, as the legal append of M.D. gives to its holder an authority, and a certain position which can not be obtained in any other way. It raises the individual in the social scale no matter who he, or she may be.

We would ask your attention to the fact that we have this week made very large reduction in our fees which ought to bring them within the reach of all who are qualified. The fees which are inclusive of charges of every kind are reduced to \$35.

We shall be glad to, and indeed expect to hear further from you, and to answer any or all questions you may desire to submit.

We are yours very sincerely,
WISCONSIN ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE,
FRED RUTLAND, M.D., President.

II.

WISCONSIN ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE,
1809 Fond du Lac Avenue,
MILWAUKEE, WIS., April 3, 1896.

MR. EMIL BORIES, Pharmacist, Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 29th received with thanks. I enclose with this our examination blanks. The instructions are very simple, make your answers by number and also make your answers as brief as is consistent with making yourself clearly understood. Then, when through take your answers to a Notary Public and make a declaration in his presence that, they are your own unaided work. Send your answers to us and if found to be 75 per cent. correct, we can legally confer the degree and issue diploma.

Yours very respectfully,
FRED RUTLAND, M.D., President.

III.

EXAMINATION BLANK.

1. State your name in full, age and nationality.
2. Have you ever studied medicine in any medical school or college—if so, for how long.
3. Or under a preceptor or physician.
4. Or in private studies.
5. Have you ever practiced medicine either as a profession, or otherwise.—For how long.
6. What school of medicine do you prefer.
7. What do you understand by the term an element.
8. Define a chemical change.
9. Define the term Decomposition.
10. Define the term Materia Medica.
11. Define the term Therapeutics.
12. Define the term Pharmacy.
13. Define the term Toxicology.
14. Define the term Obstetrics.
15. Name say thirty or more remedies which you consider in the front rank as being of most service to man.