CORRESPONDENCE.

Treatment of Nasal Duct Obstruction.

CHICAGO, Feb. 3, 1896.

To the Editor:—If I may be permitted to add a few words to Dr. Wandless' letter on this subject I would say that the statement of Dr. Taylor, regarding the frequent failure of probing for the cure of stricture of the soft parts, is largely borne out by the facts. As practiced by the average ophthalmic surgeon the use of probes accomplishes very little toward relieving the lachrymation and other annoying symptoms. Indeed, stricture of the naso-lachrymal duct has long been one of the opprobria of eye surgery and when one considers the pathology of this condition we have at once an explanation of such an unsatisfactory state of affairs. Suppose the general surgeon were to rest content with an internal urethrotomy in these cases which, pathologically, closely resemble the simple form of nasal duct obstruction; what would be the probable result six months afterward? About as much as is accomplished by merely incising the cicatricial band that usually constitutes ordinary obstruction in the duct!

If Dr. Wandless' program could be followed in all cases a cure would doubtless result, because if there is one thing that is established in these cases it is the necessity of faithfully using as large a probe as possible for months and even for years at a time. Cutting through the stricture combined with the irregular or occasional use of a small probe, not only accomplishes nothing but such a procedure makes the latter state of the patient worse than the first and discourages him from undergoing further treatment. He wanders over the country deriding ophthalmology in general and his late oculist in particular.

Whatever Texan patients may do my experience of Northern sufferers is that they soon tire of coming to one's office for months, even at increasing intervals. *Teach them, then, to do their own probing* and have them thoroughly understand that their ultimate cure lies entirely in their own hands. Use large, aseptic probes and disinfectant collyria and in two weeks after the preliminary operation the patient may be dismissed, having in the meantime, been taught how and when to probe his (more often her) own duct. My experience is that all patients, even the most nervous women, learn to do this easily—often better than the oculist himself. CASEY A. WOOD, M.D.

An Inquiry Concerning the best Climate and Waters for Bright's Disease.

CAMDEN, N. J., Jan. 26, 1896.

To the Editor:—Can you advise me what location and climate, in this country, offer, in your judgment, the most hope for a person afflicted with incipient Bright's disease to visit? Any answer, on inquiry through THE JOURNAL, you may be good enough to make will be appreciated by

Yours truly, E. L. B. GODFREY, M.D.

From a Retired Member.

NEWPORT, N. H., Jan. 28, 1896.

To the Editor:—Your letter with sample copy of the JOURNAL are received. Many thanks for the remembrance. In the success of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and its publications I have felt a deep interest from the time of its organization in 1847. I have most of the annual reports and all the volumes of the JOURNAL until July, 1891. During a severe and protracted sickness that spring and summer, through some misunderstanding, my membership fee was not sent and my name, as it was right it should be, was dropped from the subscription list. As delegate from our State society I attended the annual meeting in New York in 1864 and in San Francisco in 1871, and as a permanent member, in Boston and Washington, always

finding the occasions full of pleasure, instruction and benefit. My interest in medical literature and science, and in the power, influence, strength, honor and usefulness of our noble profession remains unabated, notwithstanding I am within less than three weeks of my eighty-sixth birthday, an hour too late in life's evening to warrant a renewal of membership.

Most respectfully yours, J. L. SWETT.

Opinions of The Journal.

99 BROADWAY, SOUTH BOSTON, MASS., Jan. 31, 1896.

To the Editor:—Thank you for the beautiful plates you had provided for my article on splinting.

The JOURNAL under your management has become of medical journals in America *facile princeps*. The matter published during the year is considerably in advance of that in the textbooks, and the typographic dressing you give it is worthy of the matter. I congratulate you on your excellent work since editing the JOURNAL, and hope the JOURNAL shall enjoy your services until it attains the circulation it deserves—20,000—and indefinitely after that. Very sincerely,

EDWARD A. TRACY.

I have thought for some weeks that I would write you and express my pleasure and appreciation of the way in which you have conducted the JOURNAL. It now stands clearly at the front, and I have only to say, God bless you.

Brattleboro, Vt.

HENRY D. HOLTON, M.D.

ASSOCIATION NEWS.

Atlanta Physicians Preparing for the Meeting.—There will be an important meeting of the regular physicians of Atlanta at the Young Men's Christian Association hall to-morrow night at 7:30 P.M. It will be under the auspices of the Atlanta Medical Society, but all regular physicians, whether or not they are members of the society, are invited to be present.

The AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION will hold its annual meeting here in May and the meeting will be held to take the first steps toward the entertainment of the convention. Dr. Beverly Cole, of California, is president of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION and the most distinguished doctors of the country are to be found in its ranks and will be here at the meeting.

It is expected that there will be about fifteen hundred doctors here when the meeting is called to order. The physicians of Atlanta are determined that the distinguished visitors shall be given the best entertainment possible while they are here.

Dr. Willis Westmoreland, of Atlanta, is chairman of the committee of arrangements, and he is taking an active interest in the coming meeting.—*Atlanta Journal*, January 20.

NÉCROLOGY.

MARCUS L. TAYLOR, M.D., a resident of Booneville, Miss., died on the 25th ult., at Philadelphia in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Taylor was born about 1850. For nineteen years he was connected with the United States Army. While stationed at Jefferson Barracks he was notified of the serious illness of an old friend. He started out on horseback for a long journey of 170 miles in the midst of a blizzard. He reached his destination safely and accomplished his purpose, but was never well afterward, owing to the exposure during the ride. He had decided to practice medicine in Philadelphia and came here for this purpose, but he was obliged to seek hospital treatment soon after his arrival. His death was due to malaria and asthma. He leaves a widow. His body was sent to Booneville for interment.

EDWARD H. TINEN, M.D., of typhoid fever, at Chicago, January 28, aged 22.—George F. Magoun, M.D., of Grinnell Iowa, January 30.—Henry Ladd, M.D., of Melmore, Ohio, January 30, aged 83.—J. P. Gruwell, M.D., of Alliance, Ohio, January 20, aged 85.—Felix P. Callahan, M.D., of Peoria, Ill., January 29.—A. L. Harris, M.D., of Atlanta, Ga., January 28.—J. W. Pugh, M.D., of Stockton, Cal., January 24, aged 78.—John Healy, M.D., of Raywick, Ky., January 28, aged 60.—M. L. Stafford, M.D., of Luray, Mo., January 26, aged 45.—J. M. Waldron, of Porter, Mich., February 1, aged 36.—John R. Meachem, M.D., of Racine, Wis., February 1, aged 72.—Thomas Burgess, M.D., of Nashville, Tenn., January 30, aged 69.—P. P. Whitesell, M.D., of Noblesville, Ind., January 28, aged 73.

THE LATE DR. BASIL NORRIS—Your committee respectfully submit the following expression of respect, and resolutions in memory of the late Dr. Basil Norris:

He who acquires the knowledge of preserving health, obviating disease or death and exerting himself to do good to all men, deserves the homage of his fellow-creatures while living, and when he has passed away he should be held in pleasant and appreciative memory by all who have known him. Dr. Norris, we are gratified to know, received a very large share of esteem and honor, and that we, the members of this Society, of which he was an honorary member, do record the fact that we sincerely cherish the memory of our departed friend and brother.

Dr. Norris was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, March 9, 1828. He was graduated at the University of Maryland in 1849, and entered the United States Army in 1852. He served with troops in Texas, Utah and New Mexico until 1862. He was then promoted Surgeon, and in 1863 was appointed Medical Director of one of the grand divisions of the Army of the Potomac. For meritorious service he was raised to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and finally Colonel. When retired, he was Medical Director of the division of the Pacific. His writings are said to have been numerous and scholarly. He was a genial man, an accomplished physician and efficient officer. He died in San Francisco, Nov. 11, 1895.

WHEREAS, Our professional brother, Dr. Basil Norris, who after a successful career, has been removed by an All-wise Providence, therefore,

Resolved, That as an earnest friend and co-worker his death is sincerely felt by this Society; and that to his relatives and friends we tender our sympathy and condolence;

Resolved, That a copy of this memoir be transmitted to the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, and the medical journals of this State, accompanied by the request that it be published.

G. W. DAVIS, M.D.,
F. B. CARPENTER, M.D.,
C. E. FARNUM, M.D.

Committee of San Francisco Medical Society.

BOOK NOTICES.

Twentieth Century Practice. An International Encyclopedia of Modern Medical Science, by Leading Authorities of Europe and America. Edited by THOMAS L. STEDMAN, M.D., New York City. In Twenty Volumes. Volume VI. "Diseases of the Respiratory Organs." New York: William Wood & Company. 1895.

This volume is accompanied by a note from the publishers which states that "owing to unforeseen difficulties in the preparation of volume V, it has been necessary to issue volume VI out of its natural order. Volume V will be the next volume to appear." The contents of this volume include the following articles: 1, "On Diseases of the Nose," by Prosser James, of London; 2, "Diseases of the Accessory Sinuses of the Nose," by Jonathan Wright, of Brooklyn; 3, "Diseases of the Naso-pharynx and Pharynx," by E. J. Moure, of Bordeaux; 4, "Diseases of the Ear," by Albert H. Buck, of New York; 5, "Diseases of the Tonsils," by E. J. Moure, of Bordeaux; 6, "Diseases of the Larynx," by Francke H. Bosworth, of New York; 7, "Diseases of the Trachea and Bronchial Tubes," by Sir Thomas Grainger Stewart and

George Alexander Gibson; 8, "Diseases of the Lungs (Excluding Croupous Pneumonia and Tuberculosis)," by Winslow Anderson, of San Francisco.

The names of the authors are so well known and authoritative, that one knows instinctively that the subjects respectively assigned them will be properly treated. An important statement is made by Moure, p. 289, where in speaking of the antitoxin treatment of diphtheria he says the period of immunity "conferred by the antitoxin has not been determined, but would appear to be about two or three months."

The publishers have illustrated the work well, and its appearance is uniform with the preceding volumes. We can truthfully award this volume the same high praise that was given its predecessors in the series.

An Atlas of the Normal and Pathological Nervous Systems. Together with a Sketch of the Anatomy, Pathology and Therapy of the Same. By DR. CHRISTFRIED JAKOB, with an introduction by PROF. DR. A. D. STRUEMPPELL. Translated and edited (authorized) by JOSEPH COLLINS, M.D. 8vo, cl., pp. 230. New York: William Wood & Company. 1896.

This is No. 2 of Wood's Medical hand atlases, and has 221 figures on 78 plates, three of them folding charts. To the anatomist, the physiologist, the clinician, and as well the general practitioner, who desires to comprehend the clinical picture as seen at the bedside, this atlas will be invaluable. It gives the relationships in a clear and lucid manner, and as stated in the prefatory note: "The student as well as the practical physician who wishes to keep in touch with the advance which medical science has made, from the standpoint of the neurologist, is given the opportunity to get a clear conception of it by means of this atlas."

Pictorial Atlas of Skin Diseases and Syphilitic Affections, in Photographs from Models in the Museum of the St. Louis Hospital, Paris, with explanatory woodcuts and text, by ERNEST BESNIER, A. FOURNIER, TENNESON, HALLOPEAU and DU CASTEL, Physicians to Hôpital St. Louis, with the Coöperation of Henri Feulard, Curator of the Museum, and the Secretary, Léon Jacquet. Edited and annotated by J. J. PRINGLE, M.B., F.R.C.P. Part I. London: F. J. Rebman; Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1895. To be published in twelve parts, at \$3 a part.

The Hôpital St. Louis was founded by Henry IV and opened for patients in 1602. It is therefore next to the oldest hospital in Paris, and for the past fifty years has treated about 8,000 patients annually. The museum has been famous for its extensive dermatology and syphilography collections, and now we have these treasures spread before the world, so that all may see color reproductions of this great museum, representing cases actually treated. The plates have an explanatory text by the staff of the St. Louis Hospital, and the names of Besnier and Fournier are alone sufficient to give tone and character to the work. The translation by Dr. Pringle and the typography are worthy of all praise.

The Medical Muse, Grave and Gay. A Collection of Rhymes up to date, by the Doctor, for the Doctor, and against the Doctor. Collected and arranged by JOHN F. B. LILLARD. Cl., pp. 141. New York: I. E. Booth. 1896.

This collection has some excellent and some very poor selections, but the reader having paid his money may take his choice. We miss some of the earlier medical rhymsters such as Armstrong and Fessenden, and there is no attempt to invade the Continent and make any translations from Volkman, or from the French. We miss that characteristic poem of Dr. Holmes entitled "Rip Van Winkle, Jr., M.D.," with which he delighted the Massachusetts Medical Society some years ago, and there are many omissions of more recent American productions. However, the idea of the collection is a good one, and this book, which we hope may reach its second edition soon, is well started, although there are some that might well be spared. We expect to see the second edition twice as large. There are a number of good things in the old *Flos Medicinæ* that might