

"1. *Be it resolved*, That after a thorough and impartial investigation by the Committee on Hospitals and Dispensaries of the New York County Medical Association, it now be declared the sense and belief of this Association that the reorganization of the medical service in the public hospitals in New York in 1895, as far as it concerned members of the medical profession, involved a violation of the Code of Ethics of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, was vicious in principle and unjust in its effects.

"2. *Be it resolved*, That this Association deprecates and condemns the present system on which the medical management of the Department of Charities is conducted and with the advent of Greater New York unconditionally pledges itself to leave nothing undone to effect its early repeal."

Immediately on the passage of these resolutions all formal charges against members, it appears, were withdrawn.

At the time of this reorganization upheaval in New York the JOURNAL took the ground that it was a humiliating spectacle to witness the wholesale removal of medical men without any adequate justification or pretense.

It is now to be hoped that the voice of the profession has been heard in unmistakable terms, and that means may be devised by which an honorable and equitable adjustment may be arranged and the profession once more united.

JUSTITIA.

### A Literary Endorser.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., June 21, 1897.

*To the Editor*:—Allow me to call your attention to the following facts and enlist your cooperation in assisting this gentleman in a way that it seems to me he richly deserves from our profession.

One of the most glaring frauds of this decade has been an appliance known as "Electropoise," advertised in *Harper's Monthly* and other leading publications. The sale of this appliance has been fostered by the certificate given its promoters by one W. H. DePuy, assistant editor for some time of the New York *Christian Advocate*, whose official position on one of the leading religious papers of the country added some weight to his statements.

Recently I received an advertisement of "The University of Literature," edited by W. H. DePuy, A.M., D.D., LL.D., who I find is the clerical endorser of Electropoise. I wish you would call the attention of the 125,000 medical men in this country to the facts in this case, so that they may treat the compilations of the Rev. DePuy with the scant courtesy which they deserve. I send you copies of the advertisement of the Electropoise and University of Literature herewith.

Yours very truly, GEO. N. KREIDER, M.D.

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

**Rates of Mortality in 1896 in Thirty-two Large Cities.**—From the last registrar-general's report (London) and from other official sources the following death rates for 1896 have been compiled. The cities are listed in the order of their reported low rates of mortality: Frankfort-on-Main, 15.6; La Hague, 16.3; Stockholm, 16.8; Copenhagen, 16.8; Edinburgh, 16.9; Cincinnati, 16.9; Genoa, 17; St. Louis, 17.3; Amsterdam, 17.4; Hamburg, 17.5; Berlin, 17.9; Brussels, 18.2; London, 18.6; Rotterdam, 18.6; Nice, 18.6; Paris, 19; Rome, 19.1; Turin, 19; Philadelphia, 19.8; Dresden, 19.9; Brooklyn, 20; Glasgow, 20.4; New York, 21.4; Vienna, 22.3; Boston, 22.5; Munich, 23.2; Venice, 25; Breslau, 25.1; Buda-Pesth, 25.4; St. Petersburg, 30.9; Calcutta, 33; Bombay, 41.5; Alexandria, 42.4; Cairo, 55.2.

**Inroads of the Bacilli.**—The report of the city bacteriologist of Syracuse, N. Y., shows that during the year 1896, 600 cases of suspected diphtheria were examined. Of these, 223 proved to be true diphtheria. In 411 cases given a secondary examination to see that the throats were free from the disease, as

shown by the culture test, fifteen days were found to be the average time of persistence of the diphtheria bacillus in the throat. The greatest number of cases occurred in October. Of the 223 cases, 102 were those of children 5 years old and younger, and only 17 persons were over 20 years of age. In 150 cases the tonsils alone were involved. In 187 cases the diphtheria bacilli were found alone and in 36 cases mixed with some form of cocci. In 26 of the 36 cases that resulted fatally, antitoxin was not used, while the remaining 10 cases were moribund when first seen. Examinations for tuberculosis numbered 223, and of these cases 113 were found to have tubercle bacilli present.

**Judgment of Board of Examiners Conclusive.**—Another victory for the cause of higher requirements has been won. It is in the decision of the case of Van Vleck v. Board of Dental Examiners, which the supreme court of California handed down March 29, 1897. A writ of mandamus had been granted, to compel the board to issue to the petitioner a certificate entitling him to practice dentistry. But the supreme court holds that there was no cause of action stated, and reverses the judgment granting the writ. Its decision turned on the construction to be given to the California statute, approved March 12, 1885, entitled "An act to insure the better education of practitioners of dental surgery, and to regulate the practice of dentistry in the State of California." It provides a board composed of expert practitioners, with power to examine and license those who have not graduated elsewhere, and to investigate and pass upon the reputability of schools and colleges issuing certificates or diplomas, and the right of the holders of such diplomas to their possession. The powers thus conferred, the supreme court says, are broad and comprehensive and, in some respects at least, must in their nature be final. The judgment of the board, for instance, as to the qualification of an applicant for license by examination, which is largely if not wholly discretionary, it holds, must of necessity be conclusive. And the requirement to "indorse, as satisfactory, diplomas from any reputable dental college, when satisfied of the character of such institution, upon the holder furnishing evidence satisfactory to the board of his or her right to the same," it maintains, implies quite as necessarily the exercise of judgment and discretion as in the examination of an applicant as to his fitness; and that the board's action thereunder is final, and not subject to the mandatory control of the courts. On the other hand, if the statute had required that the applicant make a prescribed showing in a particular manner, and that thereupon the board should indorse his certificate, the court says that it might with some reason be said that the act was more ministerial than judicial, and that, upon the prescribed showing being made, the board could not refuse to act. The allegations that the American College of Dental Surgery "was a reputable college, and there existed and was at the command of defendants sufficient evidence of such fact," and that the petitioner furnished "evidence satisfactory to defendants that he was the person named in said diploma," the court further holds, were not the legal equivalent of an allegation that the defendant board had so found, and hence furnished no basis for the issuance of a writ of mandamus.

**Health Regulations in the Adirondacks.**—*To the Editor*:—Our Board of Health recently adopted the following ordinance concerning the sale of milk and cream in this village:

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE SALE OF MILK IN THE VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE.

SECTION 1. No milk or cream shall be received, kept, offered for sale or delivered in the Village of Saranac Lake after the 20th day of June, 1897, without a permit in writing from the Board of Health, and subject to the conditions thereof.

SEC. 2. Every person applying for a permit to receive, keep, offer for sale, or delivery of milk or cream, must register his or her name and residence in a book kept for that purpose in