

the condition of the rural population of Scotland, and especially of those who inhabit the outlying islands on the western coasts. One of the speakers asserted that the sanitary condition of these people was not a whit better than it was five hundred years ago. Their dwellings were covered with wet decayed thatch roofs; the interior of their houses was dirty and damp; the whole aspect of the thing was a disgrace to our modern civilization; but the most discouraging aspect of the whole thing was, that this people looked upon all efforts made to better their condition as an infringement on their natural rights, and so nothing could be accomplished in the way of their improvement. It was shown at this meeting that the lessened mortality in Scotland, which modern sanitary science has achieved, is the result of a better mode of life adopted by those who live in cities, and that the general mortality among the rural population is probably as high today as it was five centuries ago.

W. S. CALDWELL, M.D.

Freeport, Ill.

"Electropoise" and the Medical Profession.

PHILADELPHIA, July 14, 1897.

To the Editor:—I am glad to see the letter of Dr. Kreider in the JOURNAL of July 10, and write to put physicians on their guard as to other publications than *Harpers Monthly* and the *New York Christian Advocate*. Several years ago I took the *Literary Digest*, but became disgusted because the advertising and even the reading columns were constantly used to humbug the public as to *electropoise*. I wrote letters of protest to the editors and publishers of the journal, but they only brought me answers of enthusiastic praise of the thing and advertisements and certificates *ad nauseam*. I tried by reason to show the publishers and editors that in matters of special knowledge expert and not lay opinion was only of value in judging of the work of a discovery, and I tried to get them to sound the medical profession as to their advertised article. It was of course useless and I renounced the publications of Messrs. Funk and Wagnalls. They evidently thought the advertiser's checks of more value than the support of the medical profession, and for a house laying claim to superior intelligence and piety I doubt not the managers have convinced themselves that in this case ethical interests are identical with commercial ones. The lesson is hard for our profession to learn, but it is one that we must learn before quackery will be less of a nuisance and disgrace to our people than it now is. But the lesson is at all times plain: The profession must bring its collective influence to bear upon the quacks in a commercial sense. They do not fear our contempt so long as we buy the periodicals they control and do not take measures to educate lay opinion.

GEO. M. GOULD, M.D.

May Engender Prejudice in Bicycling.

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., July 14, 1897.

To the Editor:—Anent Dr. Destot's account of "Paralysis of the Forearm from Bicycling," quoted in the issue of July 10 from the *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, it strikes me that the Doctor's unfortunate experience is sufficient evidence of his having been badly instructed in the art of riding a bicycle, and it should by no means have any prejudicial weight with those of us who might wish to prescribe the wheel as an available and useful exercise. One of the first errors an un instructed beginner will fall into is throwing his whole weight forward on his arms and gripping the handlebar as a last hope between life and death, when in fact the entire weight of the body should rest on the saddle and pedals. There are few riders in this country who have not learned to ride without even touching the handlebar, and that, too, on rather rough roads, the steering being done by swaying of the body or now and then a mere touch of bars. Without going into details as to the

merits or demerits of cycling as a therapeutic agent, I certainly believe that Dr. Destot's account of his personal experience should be held *sub judice* until he becomes an adept in the art.

J. C. MINOR, M.D.

Medical Man and His Morals.

DAVIS, W. VA., July 17, 1897.

To the Editor: I have noticed the great improvements of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION in the last few years with pleasure.

In the number of July 10 I read an article on the "Medical Man and His Morals," which should be framed and placed in every physician's office. I think it one of the best editorials I ever read. What a life we doctors have to lead anyway; the temptations, the trials, the ups and downs of our life, changes many a man from what he might be to either a man or a devil. He is blessed or cursed at all times; some love and others hate him; one minute he is praised, the other he is blamed for something he can not help. But any man *who loves this life of ours* will go on to the end in spite of it all. In the death of J. Lewis Smith we lost a *great man*, one who leaves "his footprints in the sands of time," one who will never be forgotten. Fraternal yours,

B. M. SMITH, M.D.

Medical Touts.

MARION, N. C., July 7, 1897.

To the Editor:—Refer to your JOURNAL of July 3 issue, 1897, page 37, and advise me the name of the insurance society mentioned in the article headed "Life Insurance Fees for Medical Touts," or say if it is the ———, and extremely oblige,

Yours truly, A. A. MARSHALL.

ANSWER.—No reference to your company was intended by the editorial of July 3 on "Life Insurance Fees for Medical Touts." For obvious reasons, however, the JOURNAL can not give the name of the company whose offer was quoted. The offer itself is in the hands of the editorial staff and the quotation was *verbatim*.

ASSOCIATION NEWS.

The Jubilee Meeting.

What Our Exchanges Say of the Golden Jubilee of the American Medical Association, held in Philadelphia, June 1 to 4, 1897.

The jubilee meeting—the semi centennial—of the American Medical Association is now a thing of the past. During the first week in June this meeting—held in Philadelphia—was a magnificent culmination of fifty years of work of the organized body of the medical profession of the United States. It was the red-letter meeting of all the fifty years. The largest registration ever known—aggregating twenty-five hundred—was secured. The fullest attendance in the Sections, with the greatest amount of papers and the fullest discussion, was a part of this record. And nothing should make the membership prouder than the knowledge of the fact that from a scientific standpoint and from the standpoint of the Sections, the American Medical Association is growing stronger and better every year. Every Section of the meeting was crowded. Not only was the attendance the largest known in the history of the Association, but the character of the attendance was of the highest—a large number of the most prominent men of the profession of the United States being in evidence.—*Medical Mirror*.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the American Medical Association was appropriately celebrated at Philadelphia, June 1-4, 1897. This occasion, in many respects remarkable, is furnishing an opportunity for much comment on the part of medical journals and in most instances they have bestowed unstinted praise upon the management and character of the meeting.

As a matter of fact there is much to commend and somewhat to reprehend in relation to both. The committee of arrangements, under the chairmanship of Dr. Hobart Amory