

EYRE, the representative American medical journal has thus passed through the hands and met the eye of our colleagues in darkest Africa, and we trust that the casual acquaintance with the writings of our American medical men thus begun may ripen into closer reciprocal relation. May the African pioneer medical men live long and prosper, and may the *South African Medical Journal* long flourish!

#### THE JOURNAL SPECIAL TRAIN TO DENVER.

The JOURNAL SPECIAL TRAIN will leave Chicago, Saturday, June 4, at 11 P.M., via the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, arriving in Denver Monday morning 7 A.M., in time for the meeting of the American Academy of Medicine, the American Medical Editors' Association and other medical organizations holding sessions on Monday.

The "Special" will run through. Tickets will be good for thirty days. The rate will be one fare and \$2 for the round trip, the most favorable rate yet granted the ASSOCIATION.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Wyman's Method.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF KENTUCKY, }  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE. }  
BOWLING GREEN, KY., May 2, 1898.

*To the Editor:*—In the April 1 number of "Health Reports," published by the United States Marine-Hospital Service, the statement was officially made that, during the recent epidemic of smallpox at Middlesboro, national aid was sent to this State at the request of this Board and of Governor Bradley, and that the representative of that Service found the methods of this Board inefficient. As the epidemic was practically under control at the time of the unwarranted interference of this Service, and as their interference was wholly uninvited, I at once wrote the Supervising Surgeon-General asking that the false and unjust statements be corrected. As he has declined to make this correction, and as this Bureau is the chief obstacle to the enactment of efficient national legislation for the protection of the public health interests of the country, I ask that the subjoined correspondence be given a place in your columns, that health officials and the profession may know what to expect at the hands of this Bureau should its persistent requests for increased power be granted. Very respectfully,

J. N. McCORMACK, Secretary.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
BOWLING GREEN, KY., April 9, 1898.

DR. WALTERS WYMAN, Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.

*Dear Doctor:*—I write to correct a mis-statement made in the current number of your Public Health Reports to the effect that this Board, the Governor of Kentucky or anyone else having authority to do so, asked for national aid in suppressing smallpox at Middlesboro. The request was made by Representative Colson, who had no authority in the matter whatever, as you must have known. When your representative arrived the disease was under control, and a speedy termination of the epidemic was confidently expected, as he reported to you when he asked to be relieved. You ordered him to stay but, under his instructions, he refused to co-operate with us or do anything unless given absolute control, and by reckless statements made to certain citizens as to government funds

available if he got this control, so confused our efforts to get money from the county, which was amply able to raise it, that our Board withdrew and the State was forced to accept a co-operation from your Service it had never sanctioned or needed. We hesitated to give you absolute control because of the ineffectual methods adopted by your Service in Alabama which had permitted the present epidemic in Tennessee and Kentucky, and of its similar history in former years in dealing with yellow fever and smallpox. After our inspectors left, your representative found that he had no authority to assume charge. Our quarantine was continued in force to protect the rest of the State but no one had charge in Middlesboro for almost a week, and the disease made such headway that it has required over a month to bring it under control to the same degree as when we left. With all due respect to you and your Service we are satisfied that your interference was unauthorized and unwise, and ask that this correction be given place in your next issue. With assurances of personal regard,

Very respectfully, J. N. McCORMACK, Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL  
MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13, 1898.

DR. J. N. McCORMACK, Secretary State Board of Health:

*Dear Doctor:*—In reply to your letter of April 9, 1898, in which you request a correction of alleged mis-statements made in the current number of the Public Health Reports regarding smallpox epidemic in Middlesboro, I have to say that the statements in said Public Health Reports are verified by the records of this office, which show that not only the Governor of Kentucky and a member of Congress for the District including Middlesboro, and the president and secretary of the State Board of Health of Kentucky, requesting national aid in suppressing the epidemic of smallpox at Middlesboro, but that a similar request was also made from the Mayor of Middlesboro; so that your request for a correction was evidently made under a misapprehension of the facts.

Contrary to your assertion, no instructions were given to Dr. Wertenbaker to refuse to co-operate or do anything unless given absolute control.

You are equally in error in regard to the success of the Service in the methods adopted for the suppression of the epidemic in Alabama, as the Service never assumed charge of smallpox throughout the State of Alabama, its operations being in Birmingham and vicinity.

With regard to the history of this Service in dealing with yellow fever and smallpox in former years, it is only necessary to call your attention to the Annual Reports of the Service, as well as the Public Health Reports, to prove the incorrectness of your statement.

Respectfully yours,  
[Signed] WALTER WYMAN,  
Supervising Surgeon-General, M. H. S.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
BOWLING GREEN, KY., April 20, 1898.

DR. WALTER WYMAN, Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:

*Dear Sir:*—I regret very much that you feel it necessary to make the statements contained in your letter. Your records can not show that the officers of this Board or the Governor of Kentucky asked you to send any one to Middlesboro for the very simple reason that they did not do so. After Dr. Wertenbaker was sent without official invitation, he reported to you that we had the epidemic under control, that no inter-State question was involved, and asked to be relieved. You ordered him to remain for reasons best known to yourself, until his presence, and your promise to furnish funds, demoralized the local officials, who had from the first objected to bearing the expense properly imposed under our statutes. Under a gross