

POPULAR MEDICAL INSTRUCTION

UNDER the auspices of the Harvard Medical School, a course of lectures has been established by leading specialists of New England, to be held at the amphitheatre of the new medical school, that will be freely opened to the public to the seating capacity of the hall. The course opened on the evening of January 12, and will continue every Saturday evening and every Sunday afternoon until May 12, thirty-six lectures in all. These lectures are to be given by men of experience and reputation, and are to cover a wide field relating to the nature of disease in general, and to particular prevalent diseases, with instructions as to means of avoidance and of treatment. Also how to care for the body in health, in order to preserve and increase its usefulness. There will be a number of lectures on the care and treatment of infants and young children, which are intended to be of special value to parents. This is perhaps the most broadly progressive step that any medical college has yet taken, it having been the policy of the medical profession heretofore rather to keep the intelligent public as much in ignorance of matters pertaining to health and disease as was possible. There does not seem to be any reason why intelligent people should not only be instructed in regard to the preservation and uses of their bodies in health, but that they should have a reasonable understanding of the causes and conditions of disease, and how to prevent them, and we believe this attitude of Harvard is the beginning of a new era in medical teaching. The average person is very greatly interested in disease. It is a subject we hear discussed on every street corner, in public conveyances, and wherever a number are gathered together for social intercourse, and if people will discuss such subjects, it would seem just as well that they should have some glimmering of the actual truth.

THE PACIFIC JOURNAL AGAIN TO THE FRONT

THE nursing journal of the Pacific Coast continues to develop upon lines which quite fill us with envy. The organizations of nurses in Oregon and Washington have adopted the *Pacific Journal* as their official organ, and will include the subscription to it in the annual dues. Each of these states is to have a representative on the editorial staff, to have charge of the work in its own section. This development is largely due to the efforts of Miss Genevieve Cook, who in the early winter made a trip up the coast and, through her personal effort, aroused an interest among the members of these scattered organizations which promises to bear splendid fruit, not only for the success of the magazine, but for the

progress of nursing on the Pacific slope. We know from our own personal visit something of the splendid cordiality and spirit of coöperation which exists in the northwest especially, and we are watching nursing progress west of the Rockies with a very great deal of interest. Nurses in the newer country have not so many old traditions to fight against, although they have difficulties peculiar to a newer country, from which the nurses farther east are perhaps exempt. The effort is all of an upward trend, in whatever section we find it, and is steadily advancing in a direction for more thorough educational advantages for nurses.

ALUMNÆ QUARTERLIES

THE Alumnæ Association of the Training-School of the Episcopal Hospital of Philadelphia has gotten out an annual report in very attractive form, which includes a review of the work of the association during the five years of its existence, an address given to the last graduating class by Dr. David L. Edsall, and a list of the members, with their addresses. During the past few months we have received an unusual number of requests for information in regard to the cost and best method of procedure in publishing an alumnæ quarterly. It would be a very great help to the other societies if the organizations now conducting such quarterlies successfully would send reports, showing the cost and manner in which such work is conducted, for publication in the official department. This would serve the double purpose of aiding those who are looking for instruction along these lines, and of acting as a stimulus in arousing interest in societies that are not yet seriously contemplating such publication of their proceedings.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

WE want to remind association workers that the addresses of the officers of all of the affiliated national alumnæ associations are published monthly in the official directory of this magazine. Corrections and changes of address are made as rapidly as sent, and by using the directory instead of writing to the *JOURNAL*, much time and labor will be saved for all parties concerned. We want again to remind our readers that Miss Sarah E. Sly, of Birmingham, Michigan, is giving a great deal of study to the subject of state organization and legislative procedure, and that she is the proper person to appeal to for assistance in regard to such matters. While we are more than willing, personally, to reply to inquiries of every kind in regard to the subject of state organization, Miss Sly is in a position, from her close touch with all the states, to give very valuable aid.