

Ontario code of ethics. Hereafter the society will meet every two months, on the second Wednesday of the month.

ONTARIO'S VITAL STATISTICS.

The apparent decrease in the birth-rate of the province of Ontario in 1898 was thought to be attributable to defective returns, but in spite of the fact that stricter precautions have been taken in this regard, even to the extent of prosecutions and fines for neglect to register, the birth-rate of this province still continues to go down. Marriages have increased, but the births have decreased. In 1899 there were 16,514 marriages, as against 15,375 in 1898, an increase of 1139. Of births, there were 44,705 in 1899, as against 46,599 in 1898, a decrease of 1894. The deaths for 1899 number 28,607, as compared with 26,370 in the preceding twelve months. In Toronto alone, although the population has increased by 5000, the births show a decrease of 116. In Hamilton they have decreased by 156 in 1899.

THE INSANE OF ONTARIO.

The Ontario government has recently been receiving some pretty severe criticism for failing to provide proper and full accommodation for the lunatics who are confined in the common gaols of the province. Toronto especially is taking active steps to have this abuse immediately removed. In the gaol of that city no less than 49 insane people are confined like other criminals, awaiting transference to government asylums, but as there is no accommodation for them, they continue on in their present quarters. The medical health officer, Dr. Sheard, and Dr. Richardson, the gaol surgeon, have been appointed a committee to lay this matter before the provincial secretary, seeking to have the wrong remedied. The government claims that it is hurrying on the work at the old Victoria College at Cobourg, which, when completed, will accommodate 200 patients.

MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The work of this hospital is increasing in a manner altogether out of proportion to its revenues, and the present state of affairs is causing some anxiety to the committee of management. At the quarterly meeting of the board of governors last week, it was decided to make a vigorous canvass of the city for funds to carry on the work in a proper manner. The report of the medical superintendent shows that the average number of patients per day has been 178, as against 160 last year, an increase of 13 per day, but the hospital days this year count up 15,863, as against 14,686 last year. The out-door patients the past quarter are 11,043, as against 9470 last year, and it is this constantly increasing strain, as at the present time the current expense account is a debtor to capital account of \$22,850, that is causing the anxiety. The greatest number of typhoid patients at one time present was 87. The life governors will be increased to 1000, and as the minimum subscription of these is \$12 per year, this would at least mean \$12,000. The number of governors is now 598.

FOREIGN.

THE death is announced of Dr. L. Acconci, professor of gynecology at Genoa, and that of Dr. G. Buelau, of Hamburg, the inventor of aspirating drainage of purulent pleurisy.

THE Gesellschaft der Aerzte, of Vienna, has presented the triennial Goldberger prize of 1500 kroner to Dr. H. Hering, of Prague, for his work on "Centripetal Ataxia in Tabes."

THE *Archives Orientales* states that very strict orders have been promulgated by the authorities at Constantinople to put an end to the illegal practice of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry throughout the entire Ottoman empire.

TWO PROFESSORS of the Lyons faculty of medicine and Prof. F. Vidal, of Paris, have been sent to Syria by the French minister of public instruction to preside over the examining board of the free medical school at Beyrouth.

A NEW pavilion for stomatology and dental surgery has been completed in connection with the Hospital Saint Louis, at Paris, the first complete service organized in any of the hospitals there, we are told.

THE QUESTION whether to exclude the Latin language from the course at the St. Petersburg Military-Medical Academy, which has been much discussed, has been decided in the negative. The committee reported that it would be dangerous to allow the students to graduate without a knowledge of Latin, but it is not necessary to devote as much time to it as heretofore. Ability to read and write it correctly should be the standard.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH anniversary of the accession of the Sultan to the throne was celebrated at Constantinople by laying the corner-stone of several buildings in which the profession is interested, the bacteriologic institute at Chiehli, the section of surgery in the Greek colony, the inauguration of the Hebrew

hospital at Galata, and of the new buildings of the Imperial University.

FROM VIENNA comes a report of the cure of a case of alopecia areata of three years' standing by the Roentgen rays. After six sittings of fifteen minutes each, the spot exposed to the rays, it is alleged, became covered with normal hair, while there was no change in the bald patches not exposed to the rays. Kienboeck, who exhibited the patient two months later, states that "soft" tubes have been much more effective than "hard" ones in his experience.

MEDICAL DEFENSE IN GERMANY..

A strike of medical men engaged in club practice is threatened in Germany. The clubs are there official institutions, membership being compulsory for working people, and they are in the habit of treating their medical employees badly and appointing them on humiliating terms. This condition has lasted a long time and it is now proposed to organize the profession and to raise a general defense fund and generally to give the members of the workmen's sick-clubs a dose of the same medicine which they have so often administered through their trade-unions. The *Lancet* correspondent thinks the movement will hardly succeed and says that it has been rather coldly received by the medical journals, especially those of Berlin, which think there may be a better way to bring about the desired end.

MEDICAL ATTACHES TO EMBASSIES.

Some Berlin papers, in view of the prevalence of the plague throughout the world, have proposed that medical attachés should be appointed to the German embassies abroad to study hygienic conditions and inform their government as to the occurrence of cases of infectious disease. In this way it is suggested that international arrangements could be better made to prevent the spread of epidemics and timely notification of danger be assured. The Berlin correspondent of the *Lancet*, from which this information is obtained, says that there is ample precedent for this course, as there have frequently been other than diplomatic appointments on embassies and the duties of the medical appointees would be altogether analogous to those of the other technical attachés.

Correspondence.

German Medical Degrees.

COBURG, GERMANY, Nov. 6, 1900.

The ministers of the several German federal governments have recently promulgated the following rules regarding promotion to the degree of Doctor of Medicine: 1. The Ministers of Instruction have agreed that the following rules must be taken into consideration in the new regulations for the promotion to the degree of Doctor of Medicine. 2. The full meaning of these regulations is to be laid down in the rules for promotion in the various medical faculties. But it must be kept in mind, that only minimum requirements are here set forth, and that it is left to the discretion of the various faculties to lay out more stringent rules to be observed by the candidates for medical degrees. 3. Prospectus showing the regulations that have been issued and the names of those receiving the degrees are to be published half yearly in the *Imperial German Advertiser* (*Reichsanzeiger*). For this purpose the ministries in question will have to fill up the necessary forms, and send in those of the summer semesters by December 1, and those of the winter semester by June 1, of every year, to the *Reichsanzeiger*, whose business it will be to collect the same and publish them as soon as possible.

The regulations agreed on are as follows: The degree of Doctor of Medicine can only be conferred, after a thesis has been printed and published and a verbal examination. A *promotio in absentia* will not be allowed under any circumstances. By this thesis the candidate must prove that he is able to work independently on scientific lines (*selbstständig wissenschaftlich zu arbeiten*). The thesis must be written in German, but the use of another language may be allowed by the faculty. A biography of the candidate must be appended to the thesis. The verbal examination (*Mündliche Prüfung*) consists, as the case may be, either of a simple questioning (*colloquium*) or of an *Examen rigorosum*. German subjects can not receive the degree, before obtaining the permission from the government to practice within the German Empire.

Deviations from this rule may be granted in particular cases by a unanimous vote of the faculty, and with the permission of the supervising board. Foreigners who have received the government permission to practice medicine within the German Empire are subjected to the same regulations regarding their promotion to the degree of Doctor of Medicine, as those laid down for German subjects. Foreigners who do not possess the practicing physicians' permit for the German Empire and who desire to be promoted must lay before the faculty proofs of the following facts.

1. That they have had the necessary schooling (*Vorbildung*), which in their own country is required for passing the medical examination and for receiving the degrees of a Doctor of Medicine; if in their own country fixed rules with regard to this matter do not exist, they will have to show certificates from home, which in case of need can or will be supported by certificates acquired in Germany, in which proof is given that their schooling, at the least, is equal to the scholarship which is required for obtaining the matriculation certificate at a German Realgymnasium. 2. That, after having acquired the thus stipulated degree of general scholarship, they have passed through well-regulated medical studies before a regularly organized medical faculty, for as many semesters as are required in Germany for admittance to the regular medical examinations; and that at least one of those semesters must have been spent at the German University at which they wish to receive their degree. But this latter rule, with the permission of the supervising board, may be exceptionally suspended, if the candidate be well known to the faculty. The printed thesis, which must be produced before obtaining the permission to appear for the degree examination, may, at the faculty's discretion, be replaced by a scientific work of the candidate which has already been printed and published.

To avoid the use of, and presentation for registration, in the different States of the Union of bogus German diplomas, or those not recognized by the Imperial German Government, I would respectfully suggest to the different State Medical Societies that all German diplomas before being accepted as bona fide, should be required to be certified to as genuine by the United States Consul, in whose Consular District the University granting the degree, is located.

As American degrees are not in reality recognized in Germany, why should every German degree be accepted by our State Medical Boards, or at least by most of them? Medicine and surgery stand to-day on a higher plane in America than here. Consequently we should be just as discriminating toward Germany as her laws are to our medical graduates. Very respectfully,

OLIVER J. D. HUGHES, M.D.
Consul of the United States.

The Discoverer of Anesthesia.

TULSA, I. T., Nov. 15, 1900.

To the Editor: I noticed a communication from James McManus, D.D.S., of Hartford, Conn., in the November 10 issue of THE JOURNAL in which he refers to the action taken by THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and other well-known associations wherein they have gone on record that it is their belief that Dr. Horace Wells, of Hartford, Conn., was the discoverer of modern anesthesia. Did these associations so commit themselves? If so, what facts had they for such an action?

Dr. McManus must have been blinded by professional loyalty and civic pride, for from the facts in the case he is not justified in claiming this imperishable honor for Dr. Wells. The most incontrovertible facts and best authenticated details as to its prior discovery by Crawford W. Long, M.D., of Athens, Ga., March 30, 1842, two years and eight months before Dr. Wells even claimed to have discovered it, are available to any one who desires to accord honor to whom honor is due.

This is a golden opportunity for the judges in the Hall of Fame to perpetuate their own names as long as civilization endures, by selecting that of Crawford W. Long as one of the immortals, not from the medical profession alone, but from among modest men—who desired no greater glory or glittering gold for his incomparable discovery than to be “a benefactor of mankind.” Yours truly,

FRED. S. CLINTON, M.D.

Estimation of Amount of Hemoglobin.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Nov. 20, 1900.

To the Editor: I was much interested in Dr. Allen Staples' letter in the last issue of THE JOURNAL, on “Medical Study in Helsingfors,” and, particularly in his allusion to Tallquist's method of estimating the amount of hemoglobin by means of a color scale, because Tallquist's original article on this subject was published in the *St. Paul Medical Journal* for May, 1900, together with the color scale which was made for us in Helsingfors under his direction. Possibly some of your readers who are interested in this matter may be glad to know where this article can be found. The price of the *Journal*, with the color scale is fifty cents.

BURNSIDE FOSTER, M.D.,
Editor *St. Paul Medical Journal*.

Connell's Suture; A Question of Priority.

TROY, N. Y., Nov. 21, 1900.

To the Editor: In November, 1896, I had the privilege of assisting Professor Thomas H. Manley, of New York, in a case of gangrenous strangulated hernia, necessitating a resection and lateral enterorrhaphy. The gangrenous loop measured 27 inches, and more than 3 inches of both free ends of gut were also excised, in all about 30 inches. In this instance the lateral enterorrhaphy was done by the “Connell” method, the patient making a prompt recovery. This was the first case of intestinal resection for gangrenous hernia by the “Connell suture” on record; but I am informed that the same surgeon again employed the same suture successfully in August last, after the excision of 19 inches of mortified intestine; here again uneventful recovery followed.

I venture to intrude on your kindness in this matter, especially for two reasons: 1, to call attention to the “Connell,” the simplest and most effective of all intestinal sutures; and 2, in order to bestow credit on whom credit is due, and to show that though the procedure is an invention of the mighty West, it was a native Eastern surgeon who first tested its practical value, in mortified intestine on living human being; and successfully at that, in the only cases where it was tested. I am yours, etc.,

A. D. DAVIDSON, M.D.

Marriages.

JOHN TURNER, M.D., to Miss Frances Mabel Wentz, both of Baltimore, November 19.

C. MERWIN BRANCH, M.D., to Miss Erna Bass, both of Richmond, Va., November 14.

WALTER MADDEN, M.D., to Miss Annie Metzler, both of Trenton, N. J., November 14.

ROBERT EDWARD WILSON, M.D., to Miss Grace Cunningham, both of St. Louis, November 21.

HUGH NELSON LEAVELL, M.D., to Miss Hattie Rodman, both of Louisville, Ky., November 7.

WILLIAM G. CAMERON, M.D., Staples, to Miss Mabelle Davis, of Brainerd, Minn., November 14.

ROBERT MINOR WILEY, M.D., to Miss Ellen Edmundson Blair, both of Salem, Va., November 15.

JOHN MILES GIBBON, M.D., Scranton, Pa., to Miss Kathleen Coghlin, of Montreal, November 15.

EVERETT M. HURST, M.D., Cloverdale, Ind., to Miss Eliza M. Herod, of Greencastle, Ind., September 23.

ROSCOE C. DANFORD, M.D., Pana, Ill., to Miss Monta McLaughlin, of Bloomington, Ill., November 14.

MICHAEL J. KENEFICK, M.D., Algona, Iowa, to Miss Edith May Lusk, of Milwaukee, Wis., November 15.

HENRY F. TATUM, M.D., Meridian, Miss., to Miss Ruth Featherstun, of Brookhaven, Miss., November 8.

WILLIAM H. BODENSTAB, M.D., New Salem, N. D., second vice-president of the North Dakota State Medical Society, to Miss Zetta Morgar of Glen Ullin, N. D.