

In conclusion they congratulate the warden on the completeness in all their details of all the preliminary arrangements, on the uniform good order and decorum, which prevailed during the trying ordeal, and on the resulting demonstration of the rapidity and painlessness of this method of inflicting the death penalty. "The experience of to-day," they say, "has proved to our satisfaction that this method is superior to any other yet devised."

The grand jury has made an appeal for a change in the condition of the inmates of the city asylum for insane females on Blackwell's Island, which certainly ought to be heeded by the authorities, and it is to be hoped that the Board of Estimate and Apportionment will now provide for the urgent necessities of the case. For a long time past this institution has been greatly overcrowded, so that 1,700 women have been huddled together in buildings originally intended for 1,200 at the outside. While there is urgent need for repairs and improvements in the buildings on Blackwell's Island, it would seem far wiser, rather than to increase the capacity of these buildings, to make suitable provisions for the overflow at the city's farm for the insane which was established a few years ago at Central Islip, on Long Island, a very salubrious rural district situated midway between the ocean and Long Island Sound, and which has thus far proved a very successful experiment.

Dr. Wm. J. Morton, the well-known specialist in diseases of the nervous system, has expressed the hope that the city of New York may at some future time have all its insane cared for in some such manner as at the colony for the insane at Gheel, in Belgium. "There," he recently said, "the picture is unlike anything to be seen in America or elsewhere in Europe, and therefore valuable for its contrasts and its suggestions. It is unusual to see the insane living their lives in natural surroundings. Gheel teaches us the possibilities that exist in the treatment of the insane. It shows us that they will work cheerfully if well managed, and that they may be treated, under proper precautions, with great liberty, and not abuse it. It teaches us, moreover, how woefully wide our advanced civilization is from the mark it might attain to in the treatment of insanity."

"The new and stringent immigration laws, providing for the examination and return on the vessels which brought them of all pauper and diseased emigrants landing in this country, have not gone into effect any too soon. For years it has been notorious that such dependent persons have been shipped to the United States by municipal authorities and so-called benevolent societies in the old world; and during the past seven years the New York State Board of Charities has returned to their homes in Europe no less than 1,374 permanently disabled and helpless alien paupers who had been sent here to become a burden upon the tax-payers of this State. In the reports of the Board, these 1,374 persons are divided into the following classes: Lunatics, imbeciles, feeble-minded, vagrant and disabled, decrepit, cripples, blind, epileptic, paralytic, deaf-mutes, and otherwise infirm. The cost of removing these persons from this State to their homes in Europe ranged from \$2,451 to \$6,708 per

annum, but it is probable that in no other way could the Board have saved more for the people of New York. Said the Board in its report for 1890:

"Estimating the duration of life of this class of dependents, had they been allowed to remain in this country, at the minimum average of fifteen years, an ultimate saving of \$2,427,360, independent of the expense of housing them and providing salaried officers for their care-taking, is definitely proved, and an illegitimate burden on our people is thrown back where it originated, and where it justly and naturally belongs."

According to the bulletin of the New York State Board of Health, the mortality in this State in the month of April was the largest ever recorded. This increase was due to the epidemic of influenza, the deaths from which numbered nearly 5,000. The total number of deaths was 13,981, or 1,500 greater than in January, 1890, when the largest number of deaths ever reported up to that time for one month was recorded. This represents an annual death rate of 30 per 1,000 of the population.

One night, not long since, a man was brought to Bellevue Hospital with a slight wound over one eye, and in a state of unconsciousness, which was believed to be due to intoxication. The next day, however, he died. It was learned that he had been stabbed in the eye with an umbrella, and the autopsy showed that the ferrule had penetrated nearly three inches into the brain, producing fatal hæmorrhage.

P. B. P.

New Surgical and Pathological Society.

Getting the Hospital and Ambulance Service in Readiness for the Meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic.

To the Editor:—The profession in Detroit are at present interested in making arrangements for the medical and surgical care of the veteran soldiers who meet in this city early in August. A committee composed of representative practitioners, under the chairmanship of Dr. E. L. Shurly, have the work in charge. They have divided the city into ambulance districts, established medical relief stations at intervals along the line of march, and gotten the hospitals into special condition for the reception of the old soldiers who may happen to be taken sick or be injured while here. The demands of irritable bladders and prostates are to be particularly looked after by the erection of a large number of latrines where they will be most accessible. It is said that in some cities which have been crowded during the meeting of the G. A. R., much suffering has resulted from the neglect to erect proper conveniences. The medical men of Detroit will spare no pains to make the reunion of the soldiers successful and pleasant.

A new medical society has been organized here. It is known as the Michigan Surgical and Pathological Society. It adopts the Code of the American Medical Association, and has for its object the encouragement of surgical and pathological research, and the maintenance of a museum of gross pathology—a department of knowledge which many doctors in Detroit and Michigan think has been neglected, and has suffered by the greater en-

couragement which has been given to microscopical research.

Dr. Hal C. Wyman is the President, Dr. Lewis E. Maire, Vice-President, Dr. W. R. Scurr, Secretary, Dr. Wm. J. Hamline, Treasurer, and Drs. F. S. Hough and R. S. Linn, Curators. The presentation to the Society of a pathological specimen is a requisite for membership. A cash prize will be given once a year for the best original paper on some surgical or pathological topic.

Detroit, July 28, 1891.

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NECROLOGY.

Frank Hamilton Potter, M.D.

Dr. Frank Hamilton Potter, of No. 273 Franklin street, Buffalo, died July 16, after an illness of ten days' duration.

He was the only son of Dr. William Warren Potter, of 284 Franklin street, and was born in Cowlesville, Wyoming county, January 8, 1860, being in his thirty-second year at the time of his death. In 1882, when he was twenty-two years of age, he was graduated from the Buffalo Medical College. Prior to this time he had served as resident physician in the Rochester City Hospital for two years. In 1883, at the organization of the Niagara University, he was appointed clinical assistant to the chair of surgery, and subsequently held the position of lecturer in anatomy and laryngology. He at one time was a member of the surgical staff of the Sisters of Charity and Emergency hospitals. He first began the practice of general medicine, which he continued for a time, but afterward gave it up for the special field of laryngology, for which he had fitted himself in the schools of both this country and Europe. But recently he was appointed clinical professor of laryngology of the University of Buffalo. He was also associate editor of the *Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal* with his father. He was a member of numerous medical societies, among which were the Buffalo Medical and Surgical Association, Erie County Medical Society, Medical Society of the State of New York, Buffalo Pathological Society, and Obstetrical Society. He was also a member of the Saturn and Thursday clubs. During the year 1890 he was secretary of the Laryngological Society of the American Medical Association, and he was recently chosen by the council of the American Laryngological Association for membership in that organization.

In political life he had taken a small part, having served two terms as civil service commissioner. He was removed from that office by Mayor Becker, along with Mr. Loomis, but was reinstated when Mayor Bishop was elected. This office he resigned about a year ago, on account of other business duties.

In 1887 he was married to Eva, daughter of Lars G. Sellstedt. To them two children were born, both of whom, with his wife, survive him. He was an active and hard-working member of his profession, and had until recently enjoyed the best of health. A week ago last Sunday he was taken ill, but was not compelled to take to his bed until Wednesday. It was then found that he was suffering from an enlargement on one side of the abdomen. On Saturday a surgical operation was performed, at which time nearly six ounces of pus were taken from the region of the colon. Blood poisoning had set in, and he failed rapidly, dying July 16.

DR. JOHN F. GROËNEVELT, of New Orleans, and an Assistant Surgeon in the Marine Hospital Service, at the quarantine station at Chandeaur, died of yellow fever on June 29. The disease was probably contracted by the deceased in the course of his official duty, while he was inspecting a steamer from Brazil. He had already seen quarantine service at the Cape Charles and at the South Atlantic stations. He was a graduate from the Tulane University in the class of 1889, and was regarded as a young surgeon of talent and great promise.

It was believed at the Bureau that he was fully acclimated by having had the yellow fever, and the detail is understood to have been made at his own suggestion.

This is the fifth officer of this service that has perished from this disease in the last decade.

DR. JOSEPH PAYNE LOGAN, of Marietta, Georgia, died June 2, in the seventy-first year of his age. He was one of earlier vice-presidents of the American Medical Association, having held that office from 1860 to 1863. He was a Virginian by birth, was educated at Washington College, in State of nativity, and graduated in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania, in 1841. He practiced for a brief period at Baltimore, but made Atlanta the permanent field of his professional life. He was appointed Professor in the Atlanta Medical College, of the departments of Physiology and Principles of Medicine. He also edited the *Medical and Surgical Journal* of that city. He had been president of the Georgia Medical Association and of the Atlanta Academy of Medicine. He was for a time a member of the State Board of Health, in which capacity he contributed several valuable reports upon yellow fever and other epidemic diseases.

PROFESSOR F. W. SCANZONI died at Berlin, on June 13, in his seventy-first year. He was the well-known Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women at the University of Würzburg, and author of one of the best of the pioneer "Lehrbuchs" on the sexual organs of women.