

Correspondence

Medical Forgeries.

KINGSTON, ONT., Feb. 10, 1906.

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL, February 3, there is an article on "Medical Forgeries," by Dr. Van Meter, in which the senate of Queen's University is criticised for not immediately cancelling the degree granted in 1904 to Hagen Burger. In this university, however, the rights of graduates are very carefully safeguarded, and so serious a procedure can not be undertaken except on evidence which will hold in any court of law.

In an earlier portion of his article Dr. Van Meter writes: "The Colorado medical statute has no provision for the revocation of a license except on the ground of the conviction of the licentiate of conduct of a criminal nature." So it is evident that his own state board, as well as those of Massachusetts and Montana, do not find it so simple a matter to revoke even a license to practice.

The fact is that if the state board of Colorado had done its duty and convicted Hagen Burger of the criminal charge of offering false and forged evidence it would be possible on the presentation of the court record for the senate of Queen's University to cancel the degree. The senate has urged on the state board of Colorado the propriety of going on with the trial as the most direct way to bring the matter to a conclusion. Dr. Van Meter makes lame apologies for this not being done, but at the same time demands that the university convict Hagen Burger or—he will place certain disabilities on all our graduates who go to Colorado. We rely on the good sense of the profession in the State of Colorado to see that nothing so unjust is done. If necessary the matter will be laid before the Department of State.

It is true that the senate has the matter under consideration. Hagen Burger was summoned and appeared before the senate on December 20, 1905. After a lengthy trial the evidence was considered insufficient to convict and a postponement was advised by our solicitor to secure further information. It may take some time to secure this. Two members of the senate will be in Germany in a few months, and they have been asked to secure the evidence desired. The death of Dr. Herald, who was secretary of the faculty at the time Hagen Burger was here, has added to our difficulty.

Our graduates and friends may depend on everything being done to protect the dignity and honor of their alma mater, and they must be gratified to learn that none of the rights and privileges of any graduate can be lightly revoked.

For their information I desire only to add that Hagen Burger was introduced to the faculty by a physician known to be an honorable man. His name appeared in Polk's register as qualified in Montana and as a graduate of Kiel University. He attended lectures in the session of 1902-3 and failed to pass at the end of that session. He then went to Boston and engaged in practice and was known to be studying there. One year and five months later he returned and then passed the supplementary examinations and was granted his degree.

J. C. CONNELL,

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Quinin in Cholera.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Feb. 5, 1906.

To the Editor:—I see in THE JOURNAL, February 3, what I have looked for for a generation—some acknowledgment of the truth that quinin sulphate is a specific for Asiatic cholera. In brief, Dr. Ussher, a medical missionary at Van, Asiatic Turkey, found himself, about a year since, in the midst of an outbreak of cholera, so severe that in the first week of its prevalence all that were seized with the disease died—100 per cent. mortality. On Saturday night at midnight he began to treat the disease according to my directions (10 gr. quinin every hour until discharges were controlled), with the result that the mortality fell to less than 10 per cent. Some of your readers may recall that in my article in the *New York Medical Journal*, Aug. 18, 1904, I set the necessary mortality from the disease at somewhere between 5 and 15 per cent., when the remedy is given by the mouth (the only way it

should be given), and, preferably, in acid solution or a powder stirred up in a tablespoonful of water, as I gave it during the epidemic in this city in 1873.

The scientific part of Dr. Ussher's statement is somewhat obscure. So far as I know, Professor Koch had only demonstrated that in strength of 1/5000 the growth of the spirilla was inhibited. Dr. J. C. Graham, at that time bacteriologist of Starling Medical College (now of Denver), at my request undertook further experimentation, by which he demonstrated that in strength of 1/2500 the germ was killed in cultures in a few minutes.

For thirty years I have been drilling into the largest average medical classes in Ohio (save those of one school) that Asiatic cholera is a very curable disease when this remedy in sufficient doses is given by the mouth; that the treatment has been discovered over and over again; that quinin is useless given by the hypodermic and intravenous injection methods, as it escapes by the kidneys, never gaining access to the intestinal canal in any sufficient amount. When your last issue arrived I had an article in course of preparation, but I shall probably now await the news from Turkey in Asia. I have written to Dr. Ussher for fuller particulars about the outbreak.

To avoid misunderstanding now or in the future, I wish to state that until after I had used the remedy in 1873 I had never heard of the quinin treatment.

ERSKINE B. FULLERTON, M.D.

Trip to Europe After the Boston Session.

WORTHINGTON, MINN., Feb. 8, 1906.

To the Editor:—No doubt there will be a number of the physicians attending the annual session of the American Medical Association at Boston, June 5-8, who will sail for Europe at the close of the session. A small party has already been formed to sail immediately after the session, and we would be glad to hear from others who are contemplating a trip, either for postgraduate work or for pleasure. The postgraduate courses in Berlin will be unusually good this year.

HENRY WIEDOW, M.D.

Association News

A Great Professional Federation.

Under the above caption the *Boston Transcript* has an editorial, January 31, on the American Medical Association and on the Boston session that is worth reporting in full. It follows:

The session of the American Medical Association, which will be held in Boston on the 6th, 7th and 8th of June next, is a matter of unusual interest not only to the physicians of the country, but to the whole community. It is forty-one years since the last Boston session of this famous organization, and the growth of the Association since 1865 has been notable. Probably no organization of professional men means so much to the community at large. The American Medical Association was founded in 1847, with the declared object of improving the standard of medical education, and by that means of raising the status of the profession, and benefiting the country. While this purpose has been kept constantly in mind, the Association has exerted itself in many other fields. It has effected important reforms in public hygiene; it has impressed on legislators the value of laws relating to the betterment of the condition of the laboring classes in tenements and factories; it has preached the wisdom of a proper medical supervision of immigration; it has urged the supreme importance of healthful surroundings and care for growing children; it has pointed out the dangers and the methods of combating contagious diseases, and in manifold ways it has added materially to the alleviation of sickness, the lowering of the death rate, the suppression of quackery and the prolonging of human life. The means to forward these useful purposes form an interesting chapter in themselves, which we purpose to comment on from time to time.

The actual membership in the Association at present is about 20,000, but this figure by no means represents all the physicians who are brought under the influence of the organ-