

The Victorian Order of Nurses.—During the past week the Board of Governors of the Victorian Order of Nurses held their annual meeting at Ottawa. The principal feature in connection with the work of the order during the past year was the success which attended the efforts put forth in connection with the Lady Minto Cottage Hospital Fund, the sum of \$25,000 having been raised almost entirely by the efforts of Lady Minto alone. From this sum \$6000 has been paid out on hospitals in the Canadian Northwest Territories, and \$8000 more has been allotted for similar purposes. New branches of the order were opened at Pictou, N. S., and Dauphin, Man.; at the former place a wing of the Marine Hospital is now supplied with nursing service by the Victorian Order. The financial report stated that there had been some falling off in the endowment fund to yield \$2500 annually.

Tuberculosis in Quebec Province.—The Government of the Province of Quebec has been requested by a member of the local legislature to produce all papers and correspondence received during the past year regarding tuberculosis and its treatment. This will be provocative of serious discussion in the House, and an endeavor will be made to obtain from the Government assistance for the establishment of sanatoria for the treatment of consumptives. The Province of Quebec already possesses a sanatorium, but it does not derive any financial assistance from the Province. This is the Laurentian Sanatorium situated at St. Agathe des Monts, not far from Montreal, which is directed by Dr. Arthur J. Richer. Dr. Paul E. Prevost, recorder of vital statistics for the Province, has prepared a report which shows that in 1897 3079 persons died in that Province from Tuberculosis; in 1898, 2876; in 1899, 3085; in 1900, 3015. The figures show that the death-rate from tuberculosis is three times that of any other disease, except infantile diarrhea. In Montreal alone in 1900 there were 791 deaths from consumption.

Dominion Registration.—Dr. Thomas G. Roddick, M.P., received the applause of both sides of the House of Commons on the conclusion of his address before that body on the occasion of the second reading of his bill to provide for a Dominion Medical Council. Objection was raised by one of the members from the Province of Quebec as to the constitutionality of the measure, some one also stating that the Medical Faculty of Laval University was quietly antagonistic to the measure. The medical profession throughout Canada, however, are practically a unit in the matter, but they are fearful that the premier, Sir Wilfred Laurier, may place his veto on the bill on account of this mooted constitutionality. Owing to the fact that Dr. Roddick wished his bill to be referred to a special committee of the House, Sir Wilfred did not oppose its second reading. The constitution of the proposed Dominion Council, as now set down by its promoter, will number 39 members, as follows: Eight from the Province of Quebec, Laval University being given an additional member; 9 from Ontario; Nova Scotia and Manitoba 4 each; New Brunswick, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, 3 each; Prince Edward Island, 2; the Homeopathic body, 3. The medical population in the Northwest Territories has grown in the past year from 110 to 211.

Correspondence.

The Journal Abstracts.

DAYTON, OHIO, March 4, 1902.

To the Editor:—Ancient your editorial on "abstracts" in issue of March 1, p. 587, permit me to say that to this member of the profession they are an *extremely* valuable addition. While the papers of the Association and the original communications may or may not strike my fancy, the abstracts always contain something of interest to me. Do not give up the abstracts. Respectfully, WILFRED TAYLOR, M.D.

Medical Lectures to the Laity.

MACON, GA., March 16, 1902.

To the Editor:—I am impressed with what you have had to say in THE JOURNAL, March 1, page 556, about the propriety of medical societies having an authorized medical instructor of the people. I think the profession needs to enlighten the public and they would be glad to hear the truth from such a source. Yours very truly,

M. M. STAPLER, M.D.

Creosote in Pneumonia.

FR. WORTH, TEX., March 15, 1902.

To the Editor:—In order to prepare a statistical table showing the results of the treatment of pneumonia with creosote or creosote carbonate, I ask the aid of the profession. I request every physician who has given the treatment a trial to kindly send me, on a postal card, during April, 1902, the number of cases treated and number of deaths; state whether of record or an approximation.

Please answer yes or no to the following questions: 1. Do you believe creosote ever aborts pneumonia? 2. Do you believe the majority of cases are mitigated by it? 3. Have you found cases which, having plenty of time, were entirely uninfluenced by it?

To every one favoring me with a report, I will mail a copy of the condensed reports. I. L. VAN ZANDT, M.D.

Book Review Criticised.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., March 1, 1902.

To the Editor:—The review of my book, "Studies of the Internal Anatomy of the Face," in your issue of January 18, reminds me of the story of a boy who was being paddled by his father for some supposed dereliction. In spite of the fact that the punishment was vigorously applied, the boy kept laughing. The old man, astonished and angry that the thrashing failed to produce its usual effect, yelled out: "What are you laughing about, you young jackanapes?" "I'm laughing at you, Dad; you're dead wrong this time. You're licking the wrong boy. I didn't do it!"

Two statements are attributed to me in this review for which no foundation can be found in the book. The first of these is in the second paragraph, which says: "The illustrations are reminders to the student of anatomy that as the author remarks 'owing to the degeneracy of the face and jaws it is possible, though doubtful, that in a thousand bones two or three should be found which exactly correspond with the typical bones so pictured.'" Observe that the so-called quotation is introduced by the phrase, "as the author remarks." The author made no such remarks. Here is what he did say: "There is, doubtless, a typical or typical form for each bone, but it is not often found in nature. If we were to photograph a thousand temporal bones for example, and make a composite of the entire number, the composite would properly be accepted as figuring the typical temporal. It is possible, though doubtful, that in a thousand bones two or three could be found which exactly corresponded with the typical bone so pictured."

There is not a word about "degeneracy," no attempt is made to ascribe a cause for the condition referred to. There was no thought of "degeneracy" in connection with the matter, nor is there anywhere in the context any justification for lugging it in. The misquotation in your review seems to me to be a wilful perversion of facts, for what purpose I can not conceive.

The second misrepresentation of what I said is in the last sentence but one of the article: "His views as to the predominance of the cerebellum as a cause of prognathism would appear antiquated to modern anatomists." I said nothing of this kind. What I did say was that a large cerebellum and the prehensile dentition of the savage were found together, but I had no thought of suggesting the one as the cause of the other.

Legitimate criticism of the book was invited when it was sent for review. It was the right and duty of the reviewer to point out its faults. But I submit that the perversion of plain statements, the setting up of a man of straw—for the building of whom no material is to be found in the book—for the fleeting happiness of demolishing him, is not legitimate criticism. I can only account for it on the supposition that your reviewer has the "degeneracy" fad in virulent form.

Yours truly, M. H. CRYER, M.D.

The Will of the People, Not of an Oligarchy.

BOSTON, MASS., March 13, 1902.

To the Editor:—Prof. William T. Sedgwick, Boston, in an address published in a recent number of THE JOURNAL "confesses with sorrow" the lack of success of efforts to prevent the study of "temperance physiology" as now required in the public schools of this country.