

Rule 4. Any act of practice—as by prescribing drugs and medicines other than the simple aperients, cathartics and diuretics, or the administration of anesthetics, or the application or use of instruments—in violation of the rules and regulations herein provided for, shall be held to be the unauthorized practice of medicine and surgery as defined in Section 10 of the Medical Practice Act of 1887, and the offender shall be liable to the penalties prescribed in Sec. 12 of said Act.

These rules and regulations were unanimously adopted, and it now remains for each municipality in the State to prescribe such restrictions through its health authorities as may best meet the individual conditions of midwifery practice in the respective localities; these, when approved by the State Board, will have the force and effect of law.

If these regulations shall succeed in limiting the practice of midwives in Chicago to their attendance, practically as midwifery nurses, upon cases of natural labor only—anything further to be referred at once to the medical practitioner—there can not fail to result a material reduction in the puerperal mortality of that city. The action would seem to be a short-cut and a practical one to the end aimed at for years in England, where, according to the *London Lancet*, the second reading of the Midwives' Bill in Parliament is fixed for May 6, but, as the *Lancet* confesses, with the very smallest chance of being enacted. There are, in fact, not one, but several bills in different stages of forwardness in that country, varying from one for the registration of existing midwives and women who have had a certain amount of training—which registration would confer the right to attend cases of other than natural labor—to “A Bill for the Prevention of Puerperal Fever” and others, which would limit the midwife to such attendance as is contemplated in the rules and regulations of the State Board of Health above given.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Notes on Omnicura and Bracelin's Bactericide.

To the Editor:—In this age of progress, when new inventions and discoveries follow one another so rapidly, it easily happens that some of the most marvelous are overlooked. Few in our profession are ignorant of the Roentgen rays and their value, but many are still unfamiliar with the Omnicura and Bracelin's bactericide, and with Mr. J. J. Russell, the genial and enterprising agent who offers these remedies to the public and the profession. This is not to be wondered at, as long as physicians continue to look for information in medical journals only, instead of perusing the “voice of the people” in the *Chicago Tribune*, where the marvelous cures effected by the Bracelin remedy may be daily read by a discriminating public.

But like the violet which blooms in modest retirement, the “Omnicura” blushes almost unknown and unnoticed; our profession still lingers in total ignorance of its virtues, the *Tribune* does not herald it forth; only pedestrians who cast a passing glance at the windows of Mr. J. J. Russell's Panaceum, seem to be aware of its existence.

The lamentable state of ignorance among physicians concerning these remedies, has induced me to write this letter to the *JOURNAL*. The *Chicago Tribune* only has so far taken an active interest in this subject, and as long as the department stores do not furnish medical reading, it will be the only organ deserving

our admiration for its enterprise in that direction. Without it the Bracelin cure would waste its sweetness on the desert air; but nurtured in its bosom under the fostering genius of Mr. J. J. Russell, it has come to blossom like an octopus at the side of the omnicura. Armed with such weapons he defies diphtheria, scarlet fever and pneumonia, and he would not lose his head in an epidemic of Asiatic cholera. In such an event his fertile mind would not fail to provide the Bracelin bactericide with suitable pumping implements, and the “Voice of the people” would have to be issued in extra bulletins to keep pace with scientific progress.

To those who have failed to keep up with medical advance and are ignorant of the Bracelin cure, I owe a few words of explanation. Mr. J. J. Russell, who is one of the most remarkable men in this country, has informed me that its wonderful power as a bactericide is due to the presence of chlorin deprived of its irritant qualities by a process discovered by Dr. Bracelin, after severe mental effort extending over fifteen years. Dr. Gehrman, of the Chicago Health Office, has demonstrated that it differs from all known antiseptics in one particular: The latter kill bacteria; but the bactericide does not. I have myself verified the presence of a slight amount of hydrochloric acid and menthol in the air inhaled from it; but chlorin is totally absent, which is a great advantage, because the latter is very irritating.

The difficulties that meet young physicians in their efforts to gain a livelihood are daily increasing. Many a one starts out with a bold outlook in the future, who soon realizes that all his hopes rest on quicksand only, and if he does not succeed in making a bold strike at fortune, he sinks deeper and deeper in the slough of oblivion. To such I can give only one advice: Write a letter to the *Tribune* glorifying the Bracelin cure, and enduring fame will henceforth attend him. His name will continue to appear in public print as a man of genius and learning, his fame will be only second to that of Dr. Bracelin and of his accomplished agent, Mr. J. J. Russell, and with theirs it will be handed down to future generations.

But on no account let any one write criticisms against the Bracelin cure; it can not stand it. And for this reason the *Tribune* defends it like an enraged lioness protects her defenseless offspring. Woe to him who does! He will be covered with infamy and everlasting ignominy.

But why does the *Tribune* glorify the Bracelin cure only and not the omnicura? Why praise the good and ignore the best? Reader, I am no judge in such matters, but I am convinced that the *Tribune* is actuated only by the purest philanthropic motives. It is in the broadest sense a truly representative journal, in which the high standards of honesty, morality and patriotism that prevail in Chicago, are blended in exquisite harmony.

MARTIN MATTER, M.D.

“A Wisconsin Diploma Mill.”

MILWAUKEE, WIS., April 27, 1896.

To the Editor:—I would like to reply to Emil Bories, M.D., whose interesting communication appeared in your issue of April 25.

Section 1771 of the General Statutes of Wisconsin, as amended by chapter 220, laws of 1883, and chapters 180 and 352, laws of 1887, provide that, “Three or more adult persons, residents of the State, may form a corporation in a manner provided in this chapter to conduct, or pursue, or promote any one or more of the following named purposes.”

Among many things it provides for obtaining a charter, which is to be issued by the Secretary of State, for “establishing and maintaining schools, high schools, academies, seminaries, colleges, universities, lyceums and the like.” Also for the “Establishment and maintenance of any benevolent, charitable or medical institution, hospital or asylum, etc.”