

In view of the importance of the work being done by the American Association of Medical Milk Commissions in spreading knowledge of the character of work which can be done by commissions appointed by county societies, we feel that as much prominence should be given to their work as to the work of the Jackson County committee.

HENRY ENOS TULEY.

[Our comments, to which the above refers, called attention to the work of a county society, and gave an abstract of the details of that work. The object of the comment was to suggest to other county societies to take up similar work, for, in most instances, if the county society does not do it, it will not be done. This propaganda for the pure milk supply in large cities, and even in small towns, is world-wide, for there is an appreciation in practically every civilized country of the part that milk may play in the spread of disease, and the necessity of its regulation in the interest of public health.—EDITOR.]

The Rocking Chair for the Fowler Position.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Sept. 9, 1907.

To the Editor:—One of the greatest advances in the treatment of purulent peritonitis we owe to Dr. Fowler, who first suggested putting the patient in a semi-recumbent position after operation in order to secure better drainage, and to keep the pus as much as possible from the upper portion of the abdomen where absorption is rapid. His suggestion was to elevate the head of the bed. I used this method in a number of cases, but found it rather difficult to keep the patient from sliding down toward the foot. A number of devices were resorted to to prevent this, but none of them were entirely satisfactory. I then tried to get up some sort of a mechanical device which could be placed on the bed and which would answer the purpose better. It finally struck me that a rocking chair would furnish just the kind of support which was needed, and for the last two years I have used that method exclusively, and have found it to be in every way entirely satisfactory. A large, comfortable chair should be selected, with good, wide arms, if possible, and then with a few pillows and blankets the patient can be made exceedingly comfortable, while his position can be slightly changed up or down, or the chair can be moved from one part of the room to another. By a suitable arrangement of the pillows in the bottom of the chair a rectal tube is easily inserted for salt solution or nutritive enemata. Such a chair can be found in every house. A friend recently told me that some such device as I had in mind was exhibited at the last meeting of the Association.

J. F. BALDWIN, M.D.

Schools for Cure of Stammering.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 5, 1907.

To the Editor:—Among the many forms of quackery now so prevalent there is probably none so seductive or so susceptible of harm, at least to the patient's pocketbook, as the average institution for the cure of stammering and other defects of speech. The following letter, sent to a patient in reply to a request for information with reference to the treatment of a defect of speech due to a cleft palate, is typical and illustrative of the methods employed:

My Dear Sir:—Glad to give you the best of cheer, in the assurance that your case falls well within the purview of my art. One of the most successful pieces of work I ever did was with a Miss T., of Phoenixville, Pa., who had precisely the elements of difficulty that you describe.

In a few days her stammering has disappeared, and then, in a week or two she could say all sounds that she had missed, by reason of the root trouble; and then I addressed myself to the task of putting the sweet, silver tones into her voice, in place of that unpleasant nasal drawl, and in six weeks from the time she started, it was all accomplished. I give you my word of honor as a Christian minister that I can relieve you entirely, and give you a perfectly natural voice.

We do not encourage the hope of a perfect cure, in such cases, unless one will come to us, so that we may superintend the process from start to finish. Is it yourself or your sister, or both of you? I have mailed you both my booklet. You will see from title page that I cover all such cases. I guarantee each case, or to refund the price. Our best rate has passed, but as you live some distance, and to induce immediate attendance, I will take you for \$100, board being extra at \$5.00 a week. When can you come? Hoping to hear from you soon and to have you enter early,

I am yours cordially.

Every one knows how impossible it is to give to an adult cleft palate patient a "perfectly natural voice," but here is one who on his "word of honor as a Christian minister" can not only accomplish this impossible task but can also put "sweet, silver tones" into the voice, and that, too, in the brief space of six weeks. The "guarantee" and "refund the price" clause, of course, is not omitted.

Although no such cure as described in the foregoing letter has ever been, or can be, accomplished who has ever heard of the price being refunded?

Stammering is a serious nervous affliction and the unfortunate subjects are, therefore, particularly susceptible to such deceptive literature, especially when it holds out to them the hope of a cure. If the true nature of these so-called schools for the cure of stammering were understood, fewer names of prominent men (including physicians, I regret to have to add) would appear in their advertisements.

G. HUDSON-MAKUEN.

Medical Economics

THIS DEPARTMENT EMBODIES THE SUBJECTS OF ORGANIZATION, CONTRACT PRACTICE, INSURANCE FEES, MEDICAL LEGISLATION, ETC.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE.

Suggested Course of Study for Use by County Societies Now Ready.

The outline for the first six months of the "Course of Postgraduate Study," for which provision was made in June at Atlantic City, is now ready for distribution in pamphlet form. It is desired that this be placed in the hands of each county secretary in the United States and that the officers of each state society, especially the councilors, familiarize themselves with the plans and details of the work. It will also be sent to each state journal so that those desiring to do so may print the outline for each month's work. It is expected that most societies will have to adapt this outline to their needs, many of them doubtless not following it in detail.

"Suggestions" concerning the course, as well as the outline or skeleton program for the first month and the elaboration for the weekly meetings, appear below. The outline for each month will appear in THE JOURNAL.

For further information or suggestions concerning the course of study, write to Dr. John H. Blackburn, Bowling Green, Ky.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE USE OF THE COURSE.

1. A skeleton program for the first month will be found below, followed by an "Elaborated Weekly Program" for each weekly meeting in the month. It is expected that the secretary or program committee of each county society will use this skeleton program in assigning work to the leaders or teachers. Each teacher will then find his subject outline in the elaborated weekly program.

2. *Essentials to a Successful Meeting:* Meet promptly. Arrange that only those who are prepared shall lead in any subject. Allow 45 minutes to teacher, if only one; 25 minutes each, if two; 15 minutes each, if three. Allow five minutes to each member to discuss the subject or to ask questions.

3. *Anatomy:* Discuss those structures that will undergo morbid changes as a result of the particular disease under consideration, exhibiting gross and microscopic specimens when possible. Demonstrate fresh specimens from the lower animals, if those from the human are not obtainable.

4. *Physiology:* Study the functions of those organs which undergo changes.

5. *Pathology:* Study the pathologic anatomy and physiology, and their relations to the symptoms presented.

6. *Bacteriology:* Study the morphology and biology of bacteria, and the methods of recognizing and differentiating them.

7. Present clinical cases or brief reports, bearing on the subject, whenever possible.

8. *Treatment:* Study materia medica, pharmacology and therapeutics, exhibiting crude drugs and their U. S. P. and N. F. preparations. Encourage members or classes to carry