

nual income of several thousand dollars, which is awaiting the discoverer of such a remedy.

**The Brisbane Hospital.**—The financial condition of the Brisbane Hospital is reported to have been very unsatisfactory for some time. At the end of June the executive committee found themselves without funds and in debt for a large sum for current expenses, besides the amount due the government as interest on a loan of \$15,000. Finding themselves in this position the members of the committee decided to resign in a body, and the resignations were handed to the home secretary July 10.

**New York's Board of Public Health from the German Point of View.**—One of the meetings of the Berlin Medical Society this summer was given up to a description of the scope and workings of the New York Board of Health. The speaker was Prof. A. Wassermann, and he drew a very complimentary picture of the great work accomplished by the board, contrasting it with the apathy displayed by the city authorities of Berlin, who, he stated, are far behind the times in the matter of municipal protection of the public health.

**A Medical Prince and the Wily Irregular.**—A certain Grundlach of Munich recently published a pamphlet denouncing mercurial treatment of syphilis. He represented to Prince Ludwig Ferdinand of Bavaria, who is a registered and practicing physician there, that certain of the medical authorities, citing them by name, indorsed his views. On this representation the prince wrote a complimentary preface to the work. The local medical society at once interviewed the prince, who has since publicly retracted his statements, explaining that they were obtained under false pretenses.

**Decline of Cholera in Russia.**—The *St. Petersburg med. Wochft.* for August 5 states that it has been officially announced that not a single case of cholera has been known to occur in Russia since April. The suspicious cases at Lodz, Wilna, Tomsk and elsewhere proved to be some other disease on microscopic examination or on the evidence of the course of the disease or the postmortem findings. Sanitary precautions are still maintained along the frontier, but the local campaigns inaugurated at various points have been suspended and the physicians recalled to their posts.

**Mortality Among Physicians.**—The *Deutsche med. Wochft.* summarizes in a recent issue the article published in THE JOURNAL on "The Mortality of American Physicians." It cites in addition the average length of life among the physicians of France as 64.75 years. In the northern regions the average was only 58.3, while it reached nearly 71 in the Albi and Gaillac districts. An unusually large proportion of the medical men of France are now in the seventies. Only one French physician in the last two centuries lived to be over 100, and only 2.16 per cent. passed the ninety mark.

**Quinin Prophylaxis of Malaria in Italy.**—The *Riforma Medica* for July 22 states that at the last official conference of the Society for the Study of Malaria, Professor Celli related that the number of persons "prophylaxed" with quinin in the Roman district has increased from 1,175 to 30,000 in the last three years, while the number of cases of malaria treated in the hospitals has decreased from 6,000 to less than 3,000 during this time. In the Italian army the morbidity from malaria has dropped from 67 to 10 per cent., and among the railway employes from 69 to 33 per cent. The general mortality has fallen from 13,000 to 7,000 since the legislation was adopted providing free quinin for the people.

**Chair of Protozoology in the University of London.**—A chair of protozoology has been founded in the University of London. The secretary of state for the colonies offered the university a sum of \$35,000 for the establishment of the chair. The *British Medical Journal* states that of this amount \$1,000 is a contribution from the Rhodes trustees and that \$25,000 represents a moiety of a grant originally made from the Tropical Diseases Research Fund to the Royal Society for the Promotion of Research Work, and surrendered by that society for the purpose of establishing this chair in the university. The university senate has decided to devote the whole amount to defraying the salary of a professor and to set aside a further sum of \$1,000 a year for assistants and laboratory expenses.

**Organization of the Profession in Germany.**—The conflict between the sickness insurance companies and their medical officers over the demand of the latter for increased remuneration when the period of treatment was doubled in length, has been chronicled again and again in these columns. One of the

few places where the physicians were supposed to have lost the battle was at Mülheim, where the companies imported enough "strike breakers" to answer their purpose and ignored their former medical officers completely. Time has shown, however, that the medical men willing to serve as strike breakers were below the standard of scientific acquirements required for the positions. One by one they have had to be dismissed and the terms of the former medical officers accepted, followed by their reinstatement.

**Political Attitude of Physicians in Russia.**—We learn that the editor of the Journal of the National Pirogoff Association, Dr. Popoff, has been held responsible for the revolutionary resolutions passed at the last conference and mentioned in THE JOURNAL at the time. The publication was suspended by the authorities and the editor placed under surveillance. The collaborators on the publication and more than fifty of the physicians of Moscow have since voluntarily proceeded to the authorities and announced that they share the views of the editor-in-chief, that they assume equal responsibility with him for the resolutions adopted and for the transactions and comments published in the journal. An all-Russian congress of odontology was recently held at St. Petersburg, and seventy of the members also publicly proclaimed their unqualified endorsement of the revolutionary resolutions passed by the Pirogoff congress.

**Sanatoria for Lung Affections in Germany.**—The rapid growth of the sanatorium movement in Germany is seen by the statistics recently published. There were only three in 1892, and only 13 as late as 1897, while now there are 68 official and 27 private institutions of the kind. The Red Cross took the lead in the movement, but was soon seconded by the societies insuring against sickness. The latter devoted special attention to the curable cases of pulmonary affections, and 11 of these regional sickness insurance societies now have sanatoria of their own, as also a number of cities and communities, including Berlin, Leipzig, Saarbrücken and Wittich. The sanatorium movement was the logical consequence of the compulsory insurance of wage-earners against sickness. The education in hygiene acquired by those taking a course at a sanatorium and sown abroad by them afterward throughout their environment is one of the greatest benefits of the movement.

**Infectious Diseases in Australia.**—Though scarlet fever was considerably less prevalent in Sydney in 1904 than in 1903, the incidence continued high, and amounted to 2.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The recorded monthly number of attacks showed very little fluctuation until August, when it began to rise, reached a maximum of 188 in October, and thereafter fell to 136 in December; 530 males were attacked, as against 831 females. Between December 8 and 24 a localized outbreak of scarlet fever, numbering 23 cases, occurred in adjoining portions of the three contiguous boroughs of Ashfield, Burwood and Drummoyne. This was confined to the customers of a dairy situated in Drummoyne. The outbreak was less sudden in its manifestation than is usually the case with milk epidemics. Fourteen deaths occurred from scarlet fever, corresponding to a mortality of 0.02 per 1,000 of the estimated population of the metropolis. This death rate is the lowest recorded since the year 1900. The case fatality equaled 1.03 per cent. of notified cases, and is lower than that of any year since 1898. More attacks of diphtheria were notified than in any previous year. The number of reported cases was 738, which is equal to an attack rate of 1.43 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

## Correspondence

### Cats as a Factor in the Propagation of Infectious Diseases.

WORCESTER, MASS., Aug. 2, 1905.

*To the Editor:*—A research study is being made at Clark University in reference to the possible causal relation of cats as a factor in propagating infectious diseases, especially those of children.

I wish to make an appeal through your columns to the readers of THE JOURNAL who have observed any communication of disease from cats to human beings and to ask them kindly to put me in possession of such facts. This would aid materially in deciding to what extent the cat may be a source of danger in the transmission of communicable diseases.

C. A. OSBORNE, M.D.