

and may become of some use to society, even under their peculiar disadvantages. The functions of such an institution should be partly those of a hospital and partly those of an industrial establishment, and the latter would with this particular class largely include the former. The training of juvenile epileptics would also come within its scope and form an important portion of its work. Whether or not it could relieve the insane asylums of the insane epileptics, often less dangerous under proper management than they are supposed to be, is a question that time and experience will have to solve; at present it may not seem advisable to include this among the objects of the institution. At Bielefeld this class is also provided for, to a certain extent at least, and this may have been necessitated by the conditions.

There are several important questions to be considered in connection with the plan, such as the conditions of admission and discharge, the legal status of inmates, the relations of the sexes, etc., etc., but none that should stand in the way of the successful inauguration of the project, or that ought to be considered as difficult or insolvable. The State of Illinois, the third in the Union in population, has a duty in this regard and should not be behind any of its sister commonwealths. It has the unfortunates to be cared for and the advantage of the experience of other communities to enlighten its efforts to provide for them.

It will be understood that only a certain proportion of the whole number of epileptics are in actual and pressing need of the benefits of such an institution. In Illinois, however, with its 4,000,000 of inhabitants, there will be no difficulty in finding a sufficient number for whom such an institution is a necessity; who without such a refuge are daily becoming vagabonds, paupers and even criminals. Epileptics, with their irritable weakness from their disease, often need moral control, and while in no way a reformatory, the establishment will have a useful function in preventing some of these unfortunates from being or becoming bad citizens.

It is to be hoped that every proper consideration will be brought before the Legislature in favor of this project, and that the incorporating act will be so drawn as to insure its usefulness in every possible way. The Craig colony at Mt. Morris, New York, affords a good example of a plan which might well be followed in the proposed Illinois colony.

THE ASSOCIATION LIBRARY.

Seventy-four boxes of books were this week received in Chicago, by the NEWBERRY Library from the Smithsonian Institution, where the volumes have been stored for several years. There has never been any catalogue of these books, and the exact nature is to-day somewhat conjectural. Under the terms of a docu-

ment which by euphemism is called a deposit or loan, but a document which is in reality a deed of gift, the Library trustees agree to bind and catalogue these waifs at the earliest possible date. One thing is definitely known about this collection, and that is that it is rich in the possession of very many volumes of transactions of various foreign scientific societies, which are contained in few other collections.

With this Christmas addition from our ASSOCIATION, and the donation of the SENN collection last year, the NEWBERRY LIBRARY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT takes rank with the best medical libraries in the United States.

THE JOURNAL IS NOW COPYRIGHTED.

At the last meeting of the Committee on Management of the Board of Trustees, PRESIDENT GARCELON presiding, a resolution was passed directing the Editor hereafter to have the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION copyrighted each week. The Trustees directed that all journals should have full and complete permission to reprint any article appearing in the JOURNAL, or part thereof, provided due credit is given to this journal when the article or item is reproduced.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Electrocuted Horse—Post-Mortem Examination.

PANA, ILL., Dec. 14, 1894.

To the Editor:—I send you herewith some printed notes of the *post-mortem* appearance of a horse killed by electricity. As the subject of whether or not a man can be killed by electricity is agitating the public mind through the press at present, I thought perhaps this incident might be of general interest.

In looking up the literature of the subject, I find scarcely any mention made of the *post-mortem* appearance of a body killed by electricity. In the *Annual of the Universal Medical Sciences* for 1891, Vol. v., Section C, page 30, Dr. Rockwell says: "The reported autopsies on patients killed by currents of high potentials are few. In such the blood is usually fluid; the viscera are congested; small hemorrhages are frequent. Peterson thinks there are no pathognomonic signs of death by electricity, but that it divides and disarranges the fine molecular structure of the body." Hence, as confirmatory of the above statement, I send you this. To make the matter more intelligible, I also send a newspaper account of how it all happened:

POST-MORTEM APPEARANCE OF A HORSE KILLED BY ELECTRICITY.

The following is an account of the condition of the two horses belonging to D. M. Pence, that were electrocuted near the Union depot, as found by Dr. Conner, who held a *post-mortem* examination:

"I arrived on the site of the accident in a very few minutes after it occurred. The animals were perfectly limber in all joints. There was not the slightest tremor in a solitary muscle. Their eyes were glazed. It was a wet, foggy morning about 8:30 A. M. The bodies were steaming hot from their recent drive. In about six hours after the electrocution the carcasses were put upon a dray and hauled over a mile and dumped.

"The left shoulder was removed and three ribs sawed across thereby entering the thorax. The first thing to attract attention was the fluid state of the blood and the fullness of the blood vessels. All the peripheral blood vessels, arterioles and veinlets were filled with dark blood. The blood was very dark and without its characteristic odor. The lungs were peculiar. The larger bronchial tubes were slightly filled with a pinkish froth. The lung substance was congested with black blood which made it resemble liver in its gross appearance; only a small portion of the border of the lungs had anything like the natural appearance of lung tissue. The lungs had the appearance of the *post-mortem* conditions of a late, or at least the second stage of pneumonia, "hepatization." A piece of a lung was cut off and dropped into water and readily sank.

"The heart was soft in texture, but neither dilated or contracted. There were no clots in or about it nor in any of the larger blood vessels. I was surprised at the size of the heart, for it was fully as large as that of an ox which would weigh sixteen or eighteen hundred pounds. Neither the brain or spinal cord were examined.

"Conclusions: From the above I should say:

"1. That the horses were killed instantaneously.

"2. That when a man is thoroughly electrocuted he is beyond any human power to resuscitate him. Just the same as he would be if he had been killed by lightning.

"3. That a person may be only stunned by electricity the same as by lightning, and that if proper means are resorted to early enough there are great hopes of reviving him.

"4. That it is our bounden duty to make every legitimate effort to resuscitate, or better, revive a person stunned or partially killed by electricity or lightning, for we may never be certain as to whether a person is dead or only stunned when so struck.

"I desire hereby to thank Dr. Trinder, veterinary surgeon of this city, for his kindness in assisting me so well in the above operation."—(From the *Pana Palladium*, Dec. 6, 1894.)

J. J. CONNER, M.D.

City Hospital in Wheeling.

WHEELING, W. VA., Dec. 14, 1894.

To the Editor:—For many years, Wheeling had but one hospital, the Wheeling Hospital, which is owned and controlled by the Catholic church. It has never had a regular medical and surgical staff, nor any special provision for charity cases, although at times cases are received, especially in emergencies. For many years the late Dr. John Frissell did most of the work, both medical and surgical at this institution, of which he was really the founder. His son, Dr. C. M. Frissell, and Dr. G. Ackermann, are his successors, although any physician may attend his own private cases there. About three years ago another hospital was opened under Protestant auspices, in the hope of providing still more liberally for the treatment of the sick poor. A large building formerly used as a female seminary was purchased, and with some changes was made to serve admirably its new purpose. It stands on an acre of ground, on a high plateau away from the noise of the busy streets. The halls are large, and the wards and private rooms well lighted and ventilated, and neatly furnished. The building contains more than fifty rooms and can accommodate over a hundred patients.

This institution, although named the City Hospital, is in no way connected with the city government and receives no aid from it. It has no endowment, but depends for its support upon the receipts from pay patients and the contributions of the benevolent. The board of directors is composed of twelve prominent business men. This board is ably assisted by the Woman's Hospital Association, of which Mrs. W. F. Butler, daughter of the late Dr. W. J. Bates, is the efficient President. The hospital is superintended by Mrs. Johnson, formerly matron of the West Penn. Hospital, Pittsburgh. A training school for nurses has been established in the institution, lectures being delivered systematically and practical instruction given as well, by the members of the medical and surgical staff, which was originally constituted as follows:

Physicians: Drs. S. L. Jepson, E. Hoge, H. B. Baguley, R. M. Baird, R. H. Bullard, Eugene Hildreth. Surgeons: L. D. Wilson, J. L. Dickey, E. C. Myers, A. F. Stifel, R. J. Reed, J. Schwinn.

Of the above, Dr. Hoge resigned and was succeeded by Dr. W. E. Stathers, and Dr. Stifel, deceased, by Dr. F. J. L. Hipp.

What other city the size of Wheeling can boast of nine ex-internes among its staff? We have also two private hospitals and a third in course of construction. There is no demand for so many, and as the City Hospital is unselfishly organized and conducted solely for the public good, it should be liberally supported.

If this should meet the eye of any former citizen of West Virginia, who has met with abundant prosperity in the great West, and feels like testifying to his appreciation of his early home, he can not do so in a better way than by extending aid to our young and very needy City Hospital.

S. L. JEPSON, M.D.

Treatment of Typhoid Fever.

HASELTON, OHIO, Dec. 17, 1894.

To the Editor:—In reply to Dr. A. S. Caldwell, of Freeport, Ill., who has published a letter in the *JOURNAL* of December 15, in which he says Dr. Woodbridge's treatment of typhoid fever has failed in his hands to show the marked change in the temperature curve, which Dr. Woodbridge's charts show in his own practice, I wish to say I have had some experience with Dr. Woodbridge's treatment, and having followed cases with him, I can say the treatment will do all that Dr. Woodbridge claims for it, if it is intelligently carried out. If the treatment is harmful in Dr. Caldwell's opinion, will he please state which he considers the most dangerous; the gr. one-sixth calomel, the gr. one-sixtieth podophyllin, or the non-toxic eucalyptol or guaiacol.

I have treated, and seen Dr. Woodbridge treat, the most severe cases of typhoid fever with better results than I have ever known him to claim. The treatment far exceeds in value any other treatment I have ever seen published or heard advised.

Truly yours,

J. O. YOST, M.D.

A Rabid Dog Bites Seventeen Persons.

MOUNT VERNON, OHIO, Dec. 15, 1894.

To the Editor:—We have had an experience here for a few days past with what was supposed to be a rabid dog and the victims of his work (eleven in number) are now at a Pasteur institute in your city, conducted by Dr. Lagorio (if I remember rightly). The so-called rabid dog was sent after the killing to Dr. Probst, Secretary of the State Board of Health, and a presumptuous diagnosis of rabies was made, and also inoculations have been instituted upon some guinea pigs and rabbits, for the purpose of making a conclusive diagnosis. The dog attacked seventeen persons (from about 6 P.M. to 10 P.M., when he was finally killed); eleven of whom had the flesh broken to a greater or less degree. The scare here has not abated and the destruction of canines is progressing steadily. Feeling that the subject is one of general interest, I am prompted to call attention to these cases so that you may, if possible, give us some special information in our *JOURNAL*.

Respectfully and fraternally,

BALDWIN B. SCOTT, M.D.

Cleft Uvula—(Case of Dr. Foster).

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Dec. 13, 1894.

To the Editor:—The *JOURNAL* of December 8 contains the report of an interesting case of cleft uvula, by Dr. Hal Foster, of Kansas City. I say, cleft uvula, because it is a case of cleft uvula rather than double uvula. I have a similar, if not identical case, in a boy of 12 years, a native Cal-