

gratitude to the editor of our contemporary for the unvarying, convincing and disinterested manner in which he has pointed out to his fellow townsmen the right course to take in regard to vaccination. In temperate language he has consistently advocated vaccination, simply because he has honestly satisfied himself that there was no other alternative to adopt in the presence of the terrible epidemic which was raging in the town. The statistics, moreover, which appeared in a recent number of our contemporary, regarding the epidemics, form a strong argument showing the utility of vaccination. The mortality among the total number of cases attacked was 21.7 per cent.; of the unvaccinated cases, 41.4 per cent.; of the vaccinated only in infancy, 8.5 per cent.; and of the uncertain cases, 32.2 per cent.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Testimonial to Dr. Davis.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., July 6, 1896.

To the Editor:—The note of Dr. Overlock in the number for July 4, relative to a medal demands some information. The medal to which he alludes is that ordered by the ASSOCIATION in 1875; see Vol. xxvi, page 35. In accordance with the instructions then given, I had a number of the medals struck off and sent to those who forwarded the money. The date on the medal does not mean that when it was issued, but the date of the origin of the ASSOCIATION. Although Dr. Davis was quite prominent in the work of organizing the ASSOCIATION, yet at that time no thought existed of having a medal issued with his likeness on it. The meeting of the profession to organize a national society was held in New York, as stated in the note in the JOURNAL, but Dr. Lewis Williams was not present. I make this mention with no captious spirit but to keep history straight.

Yours very truly,

WM. B. ATKINSON M.D.

Another Explanation.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., JULY 6, 1896.

To the Editor:—I am sorry to have to trouble you with another explanation. But please allow me to say that I did not advocate before the Conference of State Boards of Health any such scheme of organization as that which you ascribe to me, nor anything in any way resembling it.¹ You are certainly writing under the influence of information that is entirely incorrect. This will be plain when the official Report of the Proceedings of the Conference of State Boards are published. The proposed bill has not taken definite shape. Only its larger provisions have been decided upon. It is some little time yet before Congress meets; and ever since the session of the ASSOCIATION in Atlanta I have been in a most miserable condition of health; during the last two weeks I have been in bed. Under these circumstances I have not been able to push this work as I otherwise would have done. I have been in correspondence with leading physicians in several states and have made some progress toward the proposed enlargement of the Committee.

In the meantime I take this opportunity to say through the JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION that my Committee and myself will be greatly obliged for any suggestions looking to the completion of a wise and judicious bill; and this invitation is especially extended to the Editor of the JOURNAL.

Yours truly,

JEROME COCHRAN, M.D.

Chairman of Committee.

¹ Our information was in writing, and from a member of the Conference.—ED.

If She Had Only Been Batteized.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., July 9, 1896.

To the Editor:—Apropos of recent contributions to the JOURNAL by Drs. Boal and Daniel suggesting castration as a punishment for certain derelicts (degenerates?) I enclose an excerpt from a reliable source:

"Prof. Pellmann of Bonn University, who makes a special study of heredity, has been tracing the career of the descendants of Frau Ada Jurke, a notorious drunkard, who was born in 1740 and died in 1800. Her descendants have numbered 834, of whom 709 have been traced from youth by Prof. Pellmann. Of these, 7 were convicted of murder; 76 of other crimes; 142 were professional beggars; 64 lived on charity, and 181 women of the family led disreputable lives. The family has cost the German Government for maintenance and cost in the courts, almshouses and prisons, \$1,250,000."

The details are quite as startling as those connected with the history of a colored female crook, which were published in Massachusetts some years ago. Herein is food for reflection.

Yours truly,

C. M. FENN, M.D.

Not Antitoxin.

CHICAGO, July 13, 1896.

To the Editor:—In the JOURNAL of 11th inst. p. 113, appears the following:

"Another Death from Antitoxin.—Dr. W. J. Nolan of Chicago, writes the following to the New York Medical Journal: "285 Loomis St., Chicago, June 24, 1896.

"To the Editor of the New York Medical Journal: Sir:—In view of the discussion now going on in the Journal, of which I have been three years a reader and subscriber, I frankly indorse the views of Dr. Winters in regard to antitoxin in diphtheria. Of one case I must write in terms of strong condemnation. The facts are as follows: I was called to see a boy, 8 years old, pulse rapid, temperature 105 degrees, and the laryngeal appearance quasi-diphtheritic. I began the ordinary treatment, in which quinin, carbolic acid and iron formed chief parts. The result next morning was very satisfactory; all alarming symptoms were decidedly not much in evidence. Some time in the evening of this better day, our antitoxin friends raided the house and began their injections à l'outrance. They did not inform me, I need scarcely say; but like birds of evil omen, they swooped down on a defenseless widow and daughters, and injected mightily, nay, as the sequel proved, mortally. Need I express an opinion after this on the discovery, or at least its manipulators? W. J. Nolan, M.D."

On reading the foregoing in the New York publication of the 4th inst., inquiry was at once made as the facts, with results which led to the following correspondence:

"Chicago, July 6, 1896.

"To the Editor of the New York Medical Journal: Sir:—Not so much in defense of antitoxin—which hardly needs any—as in common justice to its 'manipulators' in this city, as a correspondent, Dr. Nolan, styles them in his letter published in last week's Journal, I ask your publication of the enclosed statement of the facts in the case he therein refers to.

Faithfully yours, F. W. Reilly, M.D."

"Chicago, July 6, 1896.

"F. W. Reilly, M.D., Assistant Commissioner of Health.

Dear Doctor: Referring to the letter in the New York Medical Journal of July 4, by Dr. W. J. Nolan of 285 Loomis St., I find by the notes in my visiting list I was called May 27 to that case by Dr. Bergeron who had been called and finding it was a severe case of diphtheria, referred the people to me saying he would prefer not to treat diphtheria. On my arrival I found the case extremely severe, advanced beyond the fourth day, Klebs-Löffler bacilli and also strepto- and staphylo-cocci in abundance, and every evidence of septicemia. I gave an unfavorable prognosis but injected antitoxin with a forlorn hope; and also immunized all the other five children in the family. Then I was informed by the mother that Dr. Nolan had been called on Sunday, May 23, made his second visit on Monday, and then abandoned the case. Thereupon they sent for Dr. Bergeron and by him the case was referred to me. The case was strictly a charity one and so known to be by Dr. Bergeron, and I was compelled to furnish medicine at my own expense. The child died as I predicted on my first visit. None