

pipes into cellars, and thus up through the house, on premises where it was not used at all. It is a perfectly inodorous gas, composed largely of the deadly carbonic oxide, and it is likely that its manufacture and sale will be prohibited by law until this can be conducted in an unobjectionable manner. Certainly the experience of Troy proves that it cannot be introduced in a city with safety even for those who do not use it.

P. B. P.

ELECTROLYSIS IN UTERINE FIBROIDS.

Dear Sir:—I note on page 79, of THE JOURNAL of January 15, 1887, 2d column, lines 56–64, the following: “Dr. William T. Belfield said: Dr. Martin has conferred a favor upon us in bringing Apostoli’s method before us. During the last twenty-five years various attempts have been made to reduce fibroids of the uterus by the galvanic current; yet none of them have been recognized as successful, because, doubtless, as Dr. Martin very properly says, the current has been used in an ignorant, inaccurate and bungling way.”

I remark as follows: “During the last twenty-five years” I performed the first operation on Mrs. Robert Pierce, of Melrose, Mass., August 21, 1871, so it is about sixteen years since electrolysis of uterine fibroids has been performed.

“The current has been used in an ignorant, inaccurate and bungling way.” In the February and succeeding numbers, 1887, of the *American Journal of Obstetrics*, will appear the full account of the first fifty cases of electrolysis for uterine fibroids, to which the gentlemen named are respectfully referred. These cases are brought up to date as far as possible. The following points are of interest: Apostoli used currents of 1.25 to 1.5 ampère, with up to 200 applications in his cases, and reports no absolute cures. The report about to be printed shows a current larger than Apostoli’s, the battery measuring 27 to 30 amperes, and from one to nineteen operations. The general résumé is, seven non-arrests, four deaths, twenty-five arrests, three relieved, and *eleven cured*. Since these first fifty cases there have been quite a number of cures.

Respectfully yours,

EPHRAIM CUTTER, M.D.

1730 Broadway, New York, January 18, 1887.

AN INCORRECT WOOD CUT IN GRAY’S ANATOMY.

Dear Sir:—I have before me the tenth edition of Gray’s Anatomy opened at page 925, on which page is a plate representing a view from within the pelvis. This cut is given to illustrate the anatomy of hernia, and especially the relation of certain blood-vessels to the hernial openings. Let the reader now turn to this cut in his Gray, *no matter what edition*, although the page may not be the same as the one given. In looking at the cut it will be observed that the large artery and vein are designated: “Femoral Artery,” “Femoral Vein.” These names are printed on the vessels. The names are incorrect at this point on these vessels. The artery is the *external iliac*, the

vein the *external iliac vein*. The names femoral artery and femoral vein are not given to these vessels until they pass beneath Poupart’s ligament. This plate serves to confuse the student in his studies of hernia.

It will be noticed that the deep epigastric artery is represented as originating from the femoral, so-called, just above Poupart’s ligament. The point of origin of said artery is correctly given, but it is from the external iliac and not the femoral. Correct the names of the large blood-vessels mentioned and confusion will disappear. I am surprised to find this same wood cut reproduced in Stimson’s *Operative Surgery*.

It would be well for the editors and publishers of Gray’s Anatomy to have this plate corrected in their next edition.

A. C. SIMONTON, M.D.

Des Moines, Ia.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Dear Sir:—Lately in THE JOURNAL you made an appeal for papers to be prepared for the next meeting of the Association in Chicago, June next. In local societies the great difficulty lies in the selection of a subject. So often have papers been prepared based upon a single case that they have come to be looked upon as an advertisement of the writer. Would it not be well for the chairmen of Sections to select subjects in their various departments, and by correspondence learn who will write upon them? or publish a list of subjects in THE JOURNAL, with a request that those who would write upon them should inform the chairman, either personally or through THE JOURNAL. The members of the Association would, by this means, know what papers they could expect, and prepare themselves beforehand for their discussion. It seems to me in this way an interest would be excited that would attract attention, and both authors and disputants be benefited. It is very difficult, on the spur of the moment, to discuss any subject meritoriously and satisfactorily to either party. All special papers should be announced through THE JOURNAL at least one month in advance of the annual meeting, giving title, etc., with a brief intimation of what the writers propose to set forth in their papers.

Yours truly,

WILLIAM BRODIE, M.D.

Detroit, Mich., January 27, 1887.

PSEUDO-MEMBRANOUS BRONCHITIS.

Dear Sir:—While reading, in THE JOURNAL, the report of a case of pseudo membranous bronchitis, by Dr. H. A. Johnson, and the discussion of the same, I called to mind a case in the Boston City Hospital. The case was acute and diagnosis not perfectly clear, but the autopsy showed a fibrinous false membrane lining the bronchi. I remember seeing perfect casts of the bronchi that he expectorated. If diphtheria could be excluded, it would leave acute pseudo-membranous or fibrinous bronchitis as the diagnosis. Thinking the report of the case might prove of interest to one in writing upon the subject,

I would refer to the account of the case as published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, of March 1, 1883.

Yours respectfully,

HERBERT S. JOHNSON, M.D.

16 John St., Lowell, Mass., Jan'y 21, 1887.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

TRANS-ATLANTIC RATES.

For the information of our foreign brothers who propose to attend the meeting of the International Medical Congress, which takes place in Washington, D. C., on the 5th of September next, the following rates of travel across the Atlantic ocean have been submitted and recommended for their acceptance:

Red Star Line—\$100, Antwerp—New York and return.

Inman Line—\$100, Liverpool—New York and return.

Hamburg Line—\$90, Hamburg—New York and return.

Royal Netherland—\$80, Antwerp—New York and return.

The committee have proposed that each delegate shall have the privilege of bringing with him, at the same rate of expense, two lady members of his family, and believe that proposition will be accepted by those lines selected. Steps have also been taken to ascertain, at each of the four ports, Havre, Liverpool, Antwerp and Hamburg, the exact number of persons who will embark at these ports entitled to this reduction of rates. All further information on this subject will be promptly published in THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

A. Y. P. GARNETT, M.D.,

Chairman of Committee of Arrangements.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WOMEN DOCTORS FOR INDIA.—The London *Graphic* says: Lady Dufferin appeals to the women of England to subscribe what they can to the funds of the National Association for supplying female medical aid to their dusky sisters in the East. It is a most laudable undertaking, very large numbers of women in India being without medical attendance during sickness. They would sooner die than allow a man to see them, and they have, therefore, to trust for their recovery to the old wives' remedies which are among the traditions of zenana life. Now, however, that education is beginning to invade the sacred precincts of the *purdah*, the inmates are no longer content to trust their lives to ignorant crones, who are more skilled in distilling poisons and witchcraft than in useful medical lore. The demand, therefore, for women doctors from England is a genuine one, and not one of those philanthropic "fads" which are too often palmed off on the British public. There is another feature, moreover, which should commend the appeal even more to our favor. Rumor

says that the number of lady doctors in England is multiplying far more rapidly than are openings for practice. But in the East they have a splendid opportunity before them, in the multitudes of native ladies whose husbands can afford to pay substantial fees. They would be safe, too, from masculine competition, nor would they feel that they were intruding upon a province not belonging to them by right. Indeed, so promising is the enterprise that one can only wonder an exodus of lady doctors bound for the East did not take place long ago. There is one matter, however, in which they must be very careful, to respect native prejudices. It is said that some of them sedulously cultivate masculine manners and appearance, in order to gain the confidence of their patients. This will not do in India; the Asiatic husband is very suspicious, and would probably detect in the supposed female Hakim an enterprising Feringhee bent on making surreptitious love to his many wives behind the *purdah*.

A GOOD RESOLUTION.—At the recent annual meeting of the Ohio State Board of Health, Dr. Jones introduced a resolution requiring that every railroad company doing business in Ohio shall carry on its trains an emergency case, which shall contain bandages, cotton, and other things desirable in accidents, and that employes shall be instructed in their use by the surgeon of the road.

HYPNOTISM AND POLITICS.—While Charcot is electrifying Paris with the results of his hypnotic experiments at the Salpêtrière Hospital, Virchow, in Berlin, for the nonce has withdrawn from "The Battle of Cells and Bacteria" and is fighting the battles of his party against the redoubtable Von Moltke.

DR. JOSEPH TABER JOHNSON was elected President of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia at its last annual meeting.

THE CODE.—The cheap reprint edition of the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association is now ready. Physicians, or others, wanting single copies should send to the Editor of THE JOURNAL three cents in stamps. One hundred copies, \$2.00.

ST. LOUIS MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The *Weekly Medical Review* says: In the fifty years' history of this Society no administration was more successful than that of the president, Dr. E. H. Gregory. It also pays a high compliment to his successor for 1887, Dr. S. Pollak.

THE CHICAGO HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—Mrs. George M. Pullman gave an amateur theatrical entertainment at the Pullman residence on Tuesday evening, which netted \$1000 for the hospital.

OFFICIAL LIST OF CHANGES IN THE STATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS SERVING IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, U. S. ARMY, FROM JANUARY 22, 1887, TO JANUARY 28, 1887.

Lieut. Edward R. Morris, Asst. Surgeon, granted leave of absence for one month, to take effect about March 10, 1887, with permission to apply for an extension of twenty days. S. O. 6, Div. Pacific, Jan. 19, 1887.