

sylvania R. R., from Chicago, Sunday May 30. The rate is that of one and one-third on the certificate plan. This has been granted for all roads east of the Mississippi river, and application is pending for the reduction west. Passage should be engaged in advance. Efforts are being made to extend the time limit, but so far without success.

"The History of Medicine, Etc.," by William Hamilton.

MILLEDGEVILLE, IND., March 11, 1897.

To the Editor:—Could you tell me where a copy of "The History of Medicine, Surgery and Anatomy from the Creation to the Commencement of the Nineteenth Century," by Wm. Hamilton, could be found? and oblige
J. S. SHIELDS.

ANSWER.—This work was published in London, 1831, by H. Colburn and R. Bentley. You will doubtless have to procure it through your dealer at second hand.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Plague at Bombay.—The total number of cases up to March 11 is 9,032 and 7,546 deaths have resulted. In the whole presidency, to this date, there have been 14,856 cases of the plague reported, and 12,204 deaths have been recorded.

Sanitation at New York Harbor Against the Plague.—The act providing a special fund of \$5,000 for Health Officer Doty's use at the quarantine station in New York harbor, and to provide the means of preventing the introduction of the plague into that port, has received the governor's approval and is now a law.

Family Epidemic of Non-Genital Syphilis.—A young girl was infected genitally and soon had a "bad mouth," which was communicated to her four brothers and sisters, who were all affected in and around the mouth. A child taken in to nurse was also infected and transmitted the infection to its mother *per mamillam*, thus infecting a second family, and an older child visiting the first family also infected its parents on its return home. Gebert, who reports the circumstances, adds that there may have been still further infection that escaped his observation.—*Cbl. f. Chir.*, February 6, from *Berl. kl. Woch.*, No. 41.

Physical Examination of the Proposed Bride and Groom.—An ardent sanitarian is a member of the Texas Legislature this year, and he has prepared a bill that he thinks will greatly benefit his fellow-citizens. The bill, if passed, will revolutionize the marriage license system of the State. The intending groom must previously undergo a thorough physical examination at the hands of a competent medical practitioner in good standing, and be possessed of said physician's sworn certificate of physical soundness. The prospective bride must also have undergone a similar ordeal and a like certificate in her behalf must be submitted. Not only this, but both parties "to the contract" must file sworn statements attesting the fact that neither of them are subject in a hereditary way to any disease that might in like manner transmit tendencies thereto in their probable offspring. The county clerk must then satisfy himself that these "credentials" are perfect before granting the license to marry. Should he give it without having these evidences of "fitness" presented to him, he would be held criminally liable.

Fish Diet and Leprosy.—In the November issue of the *Sei-i-Kwai Medical Journal* is published a translation of an article on the inoculation of leprosy by Dr. Hansen of Bergen, which introduces a new feature into Mr. Hutchinson's theory of the close connection of fish diet with leprosy. The author says: "I do not think that there is any choice given to the bacteria of leprosy as to localization, just as there is none in the tubercle bacillus. They develop wherever chance has deposited them

and wherever they find favoring conditions and no obstacles, for example, on the outside of the arm where there is little muscular movement. On the exposed portions of the body, oxygen retains and feeds them. The inoculation by insects can only be successful in these places; in others, circumstances are too much against them. An internal inoculation is also easily imaginable and even probable. Salt fish is eaten all over the world; raw fish is eaten only in some countries, like Japan. Fish, especially the carp, which is so general an alimentation in Japan, where it is eaten raw and even alive, feed on the larvæ of mosquitoes, and may be suspected of communicating the spores of disease extracted by the insects from the exposed parts of diseased bodies. If not, however, spores, then the toxins of the bacilli. In reflecting, then, upon these points, I should be disposed to conclude that external leprosy inoculation means tubercular leprosy, and internal inoculation anesthetic leprosy." These observations are of much interest, and to leprologists generally they will probably be quite new. So far as we know, they afford a reasonable explanation of the fish-diet theory as a cause of leprosy, of which Mr. Hutchinson has been the staunch but almost only consistent advocate.—*London Medical Press.*

Professor Koch's Work in South Africa.—Professor Koch's investigation of the cattle plague in South Africa forms the subject of a recent article in the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*. One of the first places which he visited after arriving in the colony was the leper asylum on Robben Island in Table Bay, and he is said to have expressed his satisfaction with the general arrangements of the establishment, as well as with the bacteriologic work accomplished in the laboratory. The party included representatives of the colonial government, the German consul-general and several medical men. On December 3 he left for Kimberley, where the principal part of the work of investigating the cattle plague will be undertaken. He was accompanied by his assistant, Dr. Kohlstock, and also by Dr. Turner, a medical officer of the colonial government. It was arranged that a laboratory should be fitted up at a farmhouse about two miles from the town and whilst the requisite alterations were being made, Professor Koch went to Taungs, a town in the Kaffir country about two hundred miles from Kimberley, where more than twenty thousand head of cattle have died from the epidemic, so that there was abundant opportunity of observing the disease, of performing necropsies, and of collecting morbid specimens. On December 8 the party returned to Kimberley, where the laboratory was then in working order, and eight animals were inoculated with infective material brought from Taungs. The inoculations were made in the mouth and nose, every precaution being taken to ensure isolation and to guard against any accidental extension of the disease in the Kimberley district. One of the inoculated animals very soon died with symptoms of cattle plague, and the pathogenic material obtained from it was used for the inoculation of a fresh series. Professor Koch is much pleased with the arrangements which have been made by the colonial authorities for facilitating his researches, and finds that everything has been done to render his visit agreeable. The foregoing particulars have only appeared in an ordinary newspaper; a far more detailed and satisfactory account of the cattle plague inquiry will no doubt be communicated to the medical press on the return of Professor Koch and his assistants. The German government has requested him to visit Bombay for the purpose of investigating the bubonic plague.—*London Lancet*, February 13.

Chickenpox is not a Trivial Disease.—There are text-books on the diseases of children that teach an unfavourably favorable prognosis for varicella and an absence of all complications and sequels. In the last twenty years, however, a certain number of grave cases, even those terminating fatally, has been recorded,