

ber of men who will aid the administration there and who must combine scientific attainments and a habit of accurate observation with an occupation that will recommend them to the favor of the inhabitants of the group.

It is obvious that the medical profession alone can furnish such agents. Missionaries would come into collision with the religious prejudices of the people and traders would not possess the requisite training to study the ethnology, natural history, geology, economics and diseases of the Philippines. An immense store of invaluable information would be collected by men working in a scientific spirit and located in the numerous provinces and districts of the islands, and they would more than pay the expense of stationing them by making a census and reporting on the habits and resources of the people.

An excellent plan would be to divide the islands into sanitary districts, with a medical officer over each. He would have medical charge of the district, and also would be required to report on the matters mentioned above, and on all others of interest to the government of the United States. The medical officers would soon be self-supporting, and would be found useful in representing the administration in their districts. There are lawyers holding most of the offices of the government and the medical profession is systematically ignored. But this is a favorable opportunity to secure recognition for the culture and administrative ability of American physicians. They would go to these lands not to plunder or oppress but on a merciful mission, and the whole world would be enlightened by the reports they could furnish, while the United States would be honored by the work they would do. This would be a new departure in colonial administration and its success would be sure to make other nations imitate it.

I hope that the practical members of the profession and the influence of the JOURNAL may be enlisted in support of this suggestion. I am very respectfully yours,

W. P. WHERY, M.D.

Picric Acid as First Aid in Treatment of Burns.

GRANITE CITY, ILL., June 28, 1898.

To the Editor:—The treatment of burns is as yet unsatisfactory, the death rate about the same and many remedies are lauded, but picric acid in solution has given me excellent results; therefore I wish to record several cases treated by this procedure.

Shock and septicemia are the most dreaded results from the more severe cases, but all this can be eradicated by the persistent use of a weak solution of picric acid.

During the past three years several cases have come under my care and all have been treated alike, much to my satisfaction. While I do not wish to be original in this sense I wish to recommend a good thing.

T. B. K., chemist, age 23 years, in opening a can of gasoline the escaping gases exploded, burning him frightfully about the body, face and extremities. He was carried to a building and when I saw him was suffering untold agonies. I immediately had prepared a saturated solution of picric acid and bathed the whole body in it, covering the body with cotton and bandages. After a few minutes he said the pain was all gone and fell into a sleep. Several others who got burned at the same time expressed themselves as relieved as soon as the solution was applied.

I generally make up a pint of solution at a time and dilute as wanted.

Picric acid	4 dr.
Alcohol	4 oz.
Water distil	8 oz.

Picric acid for burns of the first or second degree is the simplest, quickest and most satisfactory treatment in my hands. It deadens pain and allays suppuration, healing spontaneously, the only objection being its staining qualities.

I generally soak absorbent cotton and lay it smoothly on the wound, cover this with rubber tissue and leave it on for two days or until a new skin forms.

I also apply an ointment occasionally, composed of ichthyol and vaselin, which softens the hardened epidermis.

While I do not propose to bring out anything new in this modern treatment I hope at least it may be more often tried by those who have discarded the old fashioned methods so long employed on suffering humanity.

F. E. TULLEY, M.D.

Plagiarism.

MUNCIE, IND., June 23, 1898.

To the Editor:—In Vol. xxx, No. 24, page 1401 of the JOURNAL, under "Original" appears an article by Gilbert I. Cullen of Cincinnati, Ohio, which has the appearance of being original, and no doubt the writer wishes to convey that idea among the readers of the JOURNAL, as no credit is given any one for the thoughts or language used.

It is the boldest piece of plagiarism I have noticed for years. It is apparently taken in its entirety from the "Encyclopedia Britannica." The Werner Edition, 1895, contains every thought and nearly every sentence exactly as it appears in Cullen's article. The only difference is, that the encyclopedia contains a little more.

A man who will copy from an encyclopedia and publish the article in a scientific journal of medicine and surgery as an original article, should be exposed, and dishonor heaped upon his head. It is an imposition upon the readers of the JOURNAL and also upon the editor and publishers, as it tends to lower the high standing and dignity of the JOURNAL.

Respectfully, F. E. HILL.

Etiology of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

PARIS, ILL., June 27, 1898.

To the Editor:—I have been very much interested in recent reports and papers on cerebro-spinal meningitis, which I believe is caused by mold. Four of my cases were attacked after eating crackers that had molded and been warmed over by a grocer, and all have been in damp houses during damp weather. A great many cases occur in armies and among those who live in Alaska, where victuals are liable to be moldy. I notice that the straw used by the Third Illinois Infantry was damp.

Respectfully, W. H. TEN BROECK, M.D.

Precocious Pregnancy.

INDIANAPOLIS, July 7, 1898.

To the Editor:—In reference to an article on page 42 of the JOURNAL for July 2, taken from the *Lancet* of April 23, I wish to say that I delivered a girl about June 1, at the age of 12 years and 10 months. The boy baby weighed seven and one-half pounds and is now doing nicely. The labor was normal in every respect; no forceps, no laceration, and an uneventful puerperium. This girl had menstruated several times before impregnation. She was not over-developed, and really not fully developed, there being little hair in the axillary or pubic regions. She is nursing her babe, though her breasts are small.

Sincerely,

WILMER CHRISTIAN, M.D.

P. S. I understand there was a girl 12 years of age delivered at the Women's Hospital, six years ago.

DES MOINES, IOWA, July 4, 1898.

To the Editor:—On Jan. 20, 1889, I was called to attend a case of confinement. On my arrival I found a girl 12 years and 10 months old in labor. After a rather tedious but uneventful labor I delivered her with forceps of a twelve-pound boy. The infant lived but a short time. The mother