

4 to 2—Mr. Parsons was not present—rejected General Davis' plan and instead adopted Mr. Grunsky's very remarkable scheme of organization—after which they sailed away to build the canal from comfortable chairs in the Star building at Washington.

I ask for the publication of this, not only as a matter of justice to General Davis and to myself, but by way of apology to the Isthmian Canal Commission. CHARLES A. L. REED.

The Abuse of Proprietary Remedies.

PARIS, ILL., March 10, 1905.

To the Editor:—A few days ago I received a pamphlet gotten out by a proprietary medicine firm, containing an editorial from the *Vermont Medical Monthly*, attempting to justify the use of secret remedies. We are not surprised to find such articles in some so-called medical journals, but expect better things from the official organ of a state medical society. Some physicians throw secret remedy circulars into the waste paper basket at once, but I examine them, because some are well written, and because I enjoy separating the true from the false statements which they contain. After giving the subject a good deal of thought I have come to the conclusion that any physician who prescribes a secret remedy is not only very foolish, but does great harm to the community in which he pretends to practice medicine. He is like the physician who, when he found any drug that was not labeled, put it into a jar, and when he had a patient whose case he could not diagnose, stirred up the contents of the jar and gave him a few doses. As the practice of medicine consists in doing the right thing at the right time, it is absolutely necessary that the physician should know the exact quantity of each ingredient in his prescription. It is amusing to find a physician who—so far behind the times that one feels like complimenting him—claims that he is up to date simply because he is using the latest secret remedy advertised in his medical journal. He reminds me of the footrace at a circus, in which the clown, when he finds that he is being distanced, cuts across the ring and claims to have won the race. W. H. TEN BROECK.

Prophylaxis of Venereal Diseases.

DETROIT, MICH., March 9, 1905.

To the Editor:—It was with the greatest interest that I read the articles in THE JOURNAL, March 4, on the relation of venereal diseases to society, and I am heartily in sympathy with any movement which will assist in diminishing their prevalence.

In my opinion much could be accomplished toward the desired end by publishing such articles as those by Drs. Morrow, Kelly and Bulkley, in the newspapers. There is no reason why the tender sensibilities of certain over-modest individuals should be any more shocked by these articles than by the advertisements of various "quacks," which appear each day. The publishers might decline to print them, unless paid to do so, but the cost of even a paid publication would be small, compared to the educational benefit derived from it. It is all right to print these articles in medical journals, but these publications reach very few people outside the profession, and it is the laity that must be reached, if any good is to be effected.

FRANK L. TRUITT.

Booklet on Fractures Disclaimed.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1905.

To the Editor:—I have been receiving an increasing number of letters asking for copies of a booklet on "New Method of Reduction of Fractures and Dislocations," said to have been printed by the government and to be sent to applicants in any number desired. I know nothing and am unable to learn anything about this booklet. To the first letters I replied, but I can not undertake to continue to do so, and I have notified the postmaster here not to send me any more letters addressed to "Prof. D. K. or G. K. Lamb." D. S. LAMB.

Queries and Minor Notes.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS will not be noticed. Queries for this column must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, but the request of the writer not to publish his name will be faithfully observed.

HEADACHE POWDERS.

CHICAGO, Feb. 28, 1905.

To the Editor:—I enclose sample of "headache powders" which a patient of mine has been purchasing and taking *ad libitum*, and which seriously interfered with her recovery from an attack of mucopurulent otorrhea. I should like to learn the ingredients of the preparation. J. T. OSBALDESTON.

ANSWER.—Most of the "headache powders" on the market contain acetanilid as their essential constituent. Usually small percentages of caffeine are also found, this being added to overcome the depressant effect of the acetanilid. The powder forwarded by Dr. Osbaldeston has been analyzed by our chemist, who reports it to contain 21.9 per cent. caffeine and 76.5 per cent. acetanilid.

DESTRUCTION OF TOOTH PULP.

EAGLEVILLE, TENN., March 9, 1905.

To the Editor:—Please name a medicine that will kill the nerve of a tooth and state how to use it without injury to the patient. E. L. WILLIAMS.

ANSWER.—Pulps of the teeth are destroyed by the application of arsenic direct to the exposed surface. Arsenous acid equal in quantity to about one-quarter and not exceeding one-half the size of a pinhead, is made into a paste by the application of carbolic acid, creosote or one of the essential oils. The cavity of the tooth is thoroughly dried and the preparation is applied on the point of a small instrument direct to the exposed pulp. If the cavity is a difficult one for operation, a pellet of cotton the size of a pinhead may be saturated with this small quantity of the paste which may be applied direct to the exposed pulp. The tooth cavity is now sealed with wax or some substance that will seal the cavity moisture tight. This is necessary to prevent the arsenic from coming in contact with the gum and alveolar process. When the arsenic comes in contact with the pulp a severe pain is experienced and will continue until death of the pulp has taken place.

Marriages.

WILLIAM T. DALY, M.D., to Miss Kate Reed, both of Cresco, Iowa, March 2.

MEVERELL K. ALLEN, M.D., to Miss Jessie M. Rubel, both of Louisville, March 1.

HOWARD R. SWAYNE, M.D., to Miss Annie Vodges, both of Philadelphia, March 1.

T. WESTON CHESTER, M.D., to Miss Sara Hopkins King, both of Hartford, Conn., February 28.

FRANK JAMES GIBSON, M.D., to Miss Berenice Julia Denio, both of Jackson, Mich., March 3.

FRANK ARTHUR ZELLER, M.D., to Miss Mabelle Rosenbush, both of Union City, Ind., March 1.

ROBERT SCOTT HENSEL, M.D., Homestead, Pa., to Mrs. Flora L. Luper of Pittsburg, Pa., March 1.

LUCIAN S. LAMBERT, M.D., to Mrs. A. B. Collins, both of Galesburg, Ill., at Chicago, March 4.

ALBERT EUGENE STERNE, M.D., Indianapolis, to Miss Laura Mercy Laughlin of Cincinnati, March 4.

WILLIAM STEWART REOCH, M.D., Phenix, R. I., to Miss Jeanette Macready of Providence, R. I., February 28.

Deaths.

Thomas Clement Kimball, M.D. Rush Medical College, Chicago, 1868, a member of the American Medical Association; founder of the Marion (Ind.) Hospital; a veteran of the Civil War; surgeon of the Fourth Indiana Infantry, U. S. V., during the Spanish-American War, and later division surgeon; died at Jacksonville, Fla., while on his way to his home in Marion, Ind., March 6, after a long illness, aged 62.

Henry F. Barnes, M.D. Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, 1854, of Indianapolis, some-time assistant superintendent of the Central Hospital for the Insane, Indianapolis; surgeon of the Eleventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War,