

best can find a market in the Department of Health of Chicago. Not until within a few months has any of the high-priced firms offered to sell us the high grade product at the reduced price—not until we secured two ample sources of supply—the New York Department of Health, and the Memorial Institute for Infectious Diseases.

That there may be no further misunderstanding among physicians as to what I said in the Annual Report of the Department of Health on the subject of antitoxin, from which newspapers have quoted, and in some instances conveyed the wrong meaning, I wish you would publish the article entire, as this is all I have said on the subject at any time or place. It reads as follows:

The control of diphtheria and the saving of life depends largely on the early and liberal use of antitoxin. The almost prohibitory price of antitoxin established by the commercial houses has been and continues to be responsible for many deaths from this cause. Numerous examples which go to prove this assertion have been observed. A man earning by hard work \$2 a day with seven in family to feed, house, clothe and school, finds three of his children complaining with sore throat. He calls a doctor, who suspects diphtheria. The father is told that it is best to give antitoxin at once and not wait for proof by microscopic examination. The cost of the first dose for the three children is \$15, besides the doctor's fee. The doctor is not able to say positively at the moment that the cases are diphtheria and the man hesitates to pay out \$15 on an uncertainty. The doctor is dismissed and goes away with a tortured mind. Two days later another doctor is called. The diagnosis is easy now. Antitoxin enough to use up the earnings of a month's labor is used, but too late—death claims two of the neglected children. If antitoxin were sold at a reasonable price such instances as just related would be exceedingly rare. When I related this instance to the agent of one of the high-priced producers of antitoxin, he replied that "the remedy is cheaper than coffins." And so we learn that the price of antitoxin is governed not by the cost of production, but by the price of coffins. The Department of Health will furnish anyone antitoxin at half the manufacturers' present price and if need be furnish the remedy free, but many do not know this, and others with a self-supporting though meager income hesitate to receive charity, and while they hesitate to seek the aid of charity or to pay two prices for a life-saving remedy, diphtheria is doing its deadly work on the innocent.

We can hardly blame a hard-working man who has a large family and a small income if he hesitates to pay \$5 a dose for antitoxin when there is a doubt about the diagnosis, as often there is in the early stage of diphtheria. It is the difficulty of early diagnosis and the high price of antitoxin combined which delays the administration of the remedy and is responsible for many needless deaths from this disease. Antitoxin should be as cheap and as free as vaccine. Diphtheria, like smallpox, has been robbed of its terrors by science, but without the intelligent application of the remedies deaths from these diseases will be recorded as before the discoveries were made. Commercialism can be justly charged with the crime of delaying the application of one of these remedies. The public good is paying tribute to private greed.

What is the remedy? It is plain to the sanitarian for he has learned that a life lost is money lost. It is plain to the sanitarian that it would be true economy for a state or a city to establish and maintain laboratories for the production of antitoxin and vaccine to be distributed free to the people for protective and curative purposes. It is difficult for the sanitarian to demonstrate to law makers the wisdom and economy of spending money for saving human lives, but if these diseases were menacing the lives of hogs or cattle there would be less trouble in securing attention from such bodies. The law-making assemblies of this country have spent more time, money and thought on methods and means for saving from disease animals having a commercial value than they ever have for safe-guarding human life. The farmers of this country, through the teachings of the Department of Agriculture, understand animal dietetics and are taught how to prevent and cure diseases in marketable animals. They are taught little from any source how to protect themselves from disease or premature death. The burden of teaching people how to observe the laws of health and hygiene falls on the medical profession—the only body of men in the world that constantly and without regret works against its own financial interests. The physician unceasingly works to keep away epidemics and by advice and warning and by the discovery and application of remedies contributes materially to the health and longevity of the human race.

There is nothing unreasonable in calling on the city or state to aid in applying the remedies discovered and freely given to the people by the physicians. The physicians are reaping no pecuniary reward from the use of vaccine or antitoxin; on the contrary, their visits to the bedside of smallpox and diphtheria cases would be increased manifold if these two remedies were not known. Then why should commercial houses be permitted to reap a harvest from the discoveries made by physicians who have given them without price for the benefit of humanity? Antitoxin and vaccine could be produced at the state university at a minimum cost, which would be far less than is now paid to commercial houses. Not alone money but lives would be saved by placing the price of antitoxin within easy reach of all. Let Illinois keep pace with New York and Massachusetts and begin the manufacture of antitoxin and vaccine at once. It has been demonstrated during the last five years that vaccine properly used renders a person absolutely immune to smallpox. More than 2,000 exposures to smallpox were made at the Isolation Hospital without a single case resulting, thus demonstrating the complete protection from this disease afforded by vaccination when the remedy is properly used. Antitoxin, when early, freely and intelligently used, will render diphtheria practically harmless. The proper application of the remedy awaits the action of the city or state to free us from prohibitory prices.

HEMAN SPALDING, M.D.,

Chief Medical Inspector Chicago Department of Health.

The McBurney Incision in Appendicitis with Abscess.

NEW YORK, May 22, 1906.

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL, May 19, 1906, Dr. J. E. Summers says, on page 1510: "I have done the McBurney incision in hundreds of patients, a few of these being pus cases, but it is a dangerous incision for this latter class, even in the hands of the most experienced." My own experience has been so directly at variance with this statement that it seems best to go on record in the matter. For some years I have employed the McBurney incision almost exclusively in all sorts of appendicitis work, pus cases, general septic peritonitis and all the complications that one commonly runs across. If one uses a short McBurney incision in his pus cases, working rapidly by touch instead of by sight, avoiding gauze packing and all drains except a small wick, avoiding counter-openings and other unnecessary procedure, "leaving his patient as nearly alone as possible," and making it a rule to have the entire operation completed in from five to fifteen minutes, I think that he can keep his death rate within 5 per cent. in cases in which infection has invaded structures beyond the appendix. There are very few fields in abdominal surgery in which I can keep the death rate and the hernia rate lower than in appendicitis with abscess in my own practice, and I count the McBurney incision as one of the prime factors. ROBERT T. MORRIS, M.D.

616 Madison Avenue.

Bats as Bedbug Carriers.

PASADENA, CAL., May 18, 1906.

To the Editor:—The editorial in THE JOURNAL, March 17, 1906, page 804, on "Bedbugs and Disease Possibilities," interested me greatly. The reference to small animals as their source of food supply reminds me that when I resided in New York City a small bat that came into my rooms was covered with genuine bedbugs. These were especially numerous under the wings. It seems to me that this little animal could be a very great source of danger as a carrier of disease, as he has free access to our bedrooms, frequently coming directly from the worst lofts or hovels, or even pesthouses. Since this bug-infected bat came to me I have looked on these animals as a sure means of spreading bedbugs themselves. If these bugs are able to transmit infectious diseases, it causes a little animal otherwise not only harmless but in several ways useful to be a great source of danger. I have not seen any mention of the bat being a possible carrier of disease.

EDWIN R. CHADBOURNE.

The Country Doctor.

WARE, MASS., May 24, 1906.

To the Editor:—In the article on "The Country Doctor," in THE JOURNAL, May 19, the author, Dr. John G. Wilson, in my opinion, has overshot the mark; while recognizing a vein of truth in what he says, I consider that some of his statements certainly need qualifying.

The man does not live who has the time and the ability to do good work in surgery, bacteriology, chemical analysis and refraction and attend to a general practice of any size at the same time. The physician who is dependent on his practice for a living must first attend to that part of his work which brings in some adequate return for time spent, and this is more than can be said for most chemical and bacteriologic work as done by the general practitioner. The results of such work are as often negative as positive in the hands of even the most expert. The average patient does not appreciate and will not pay for hours spent in the laboratory, especially if no definite knowledge is gained thereby. While the careful scientific physician is delving in his laboratory his showy, smooth-tongued neighbor is making calls and pocketing two dollars to his one.

The claim that any physician who is capable of making a diagnosis of appendicitis should also be capable of operating is not well founded to say the least. Pray, are years of constant and almost exclusive study and practice of surgical technic to count nothing? It is continuous practice which enables one to do really good work in surgery; and this is well nigh impossible for the general practitioner remote from

hospitals to have. I am a country doctor. I do the minor surgery that comes my way, and in emergency a laparotomy or an amputation. I am fairly well equipped for bacteriologic work and chemical analysis of stomach contents, and can do both. I have a first-class static machine and x-ray equipment for skin work, skiagraphy, etc., and have had good results, but not more than one-tenth of my income is derived from all of these combined. So much for my experience. I should be glad to hear from others.

It may be that this community is less favorable for such work than others. I am inclined to think that this is the case.

M. W. PEARSON.

Association News

Extension of Return Limit to Pacific Coast and Mexico.

The Trunk Line Association announces that by deposit of ticket in person by original purchaser with validating agent not later than June 18, and payment of fee of \$1 at time of deposit, an extension of return limit may be obtained to leave Boston to July 31.

Lake Transportation Between Detroit and Buffalo.

All rail tickets reading between Detroit and Buffalo over the Michigan Central, Grand Trunk and Wabash railways are optional for transportation between Detroit and Buffalo via the Detroit & Buffalo Steamboat Company. Those who wish to take advantage of this can secure reservations by applying to A. A. Schantz, Detroit, general superintendent Detroit & Buffalo Steamboat Company.

NEW MEMBERS.

List of new members in the American Medical Association from May 1 to May 28, 1906:

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ALABAMA. | DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. |
| Jenkins, L. A., Cardiff. | Anderson, John F., Washington. |
| Thorington, Chilton, Montgomery. | Heitmuller, Geo. H., Washington. |
| Upchurch, H. B., Carrollton. | Kean, J. R., Washington. |
| Williams, J. H., Columbiana. | Rogers, Jos. D., Washington. |
| ARIZONA. | GEORGIA. |
| Flinn, John William, Prescott. | Chisholm, J. F., Savannah. |
| ARKANSAS. | Crane, C. W., Augusta. |
| Cunning, John R., Lonoke. | Hammond, L. P., Rome. |
| Corrigan, Michael B., Monticello. | Hogg, A. R., Senola. |
| Gaddy, L., Atkins. | Longino, T. D., Atlanta. |
| Gray, Oscar, Little Rock. | Moore, G. Y., Cuthbert. |
| Mount, M. F., Hot Springs. | Pattillo, Geo. R., Culverton. |
| Parker, James, De Valis Bluff. | Turner, H. A., Lindale. |
| Pate, C. N., Ft. Smith. | Underwood, J. M., LaFayette. |
| Pettus, C. S., El Dorado. | Watts, James C., Rome. |
| York, Wm. W., Ashdown. | Webb, F. L., Macon. |
| CALIFORNIA. | IDAHO. |
| Munger, Curtis Boyd, San Francisco. | Rains, Jesse L., Grangeville. |
| Power, W. B., Redlands. | Reynolds, J. L., Albion. |
| Sherrard, E. E., Los Angeles. | Monroe, Jas., Hagerman. |
| Turner, Wm. D., Pasadena. | ILLINOIS. |
| COLORADO. | Ballinger, J. R., Chicago. |
| Beggs, Wm. N., Denver. | Barryte, Evan L., Chicago. |
| Broman, Oscar Francis, Greeley. | Bingley, M. A., Chicago. |
| Hick, Lawrence A., Delta. | Burr, A. H., Chicago. |
| Knox, Chas. Randall, Boulder. | Davis, David John, Chicago. |
| Nelson, Geo. E., New Windsor. | Dodge, W. E., Chicago. |
| CONNECTICUT. | Edwards, Frank H., Evanston. |
| Coyle, William J., Windsor Locks. | Fischer, W. D., Chicago. |
| Dart, F. H., Nantis, P. O. | Garwood, J. P., Princeton. |
| English, R. M., Danbury. | Griswold, W. C., Princeton. |
| Hammond, H. L., Dayville. | Hoff, Weller H., Paris. |
| Hills, Laura H., Willimantic. | Howe, Harriette A., Chicago. |
| Lawson, Geo. N., Middle Haddam. | John, F. D., Chicago. |
| Lewis, D. M., New Haven. | Jones, Martin D., Chicago. |
| Porter, Wm., Jr., Hartford. | Lane, R. N., Danville. |
| Rice, Watson E., Stamford. | Lee, W. George, Chicago. |
| Travis, Catherine H., New Britain. | Murphy, N. A., Paris. |
| Walsh, Frederick W., Rockville. | Parton, C. L., Springfield. |
| Welch, W. C., New Haven. | Sedlmair, Frank H., Bremen. |
| Whitney, C. F., Norwich. | Van Derslice, J. W., Chicago. |
| DELAWARE. | Vopata, W. J., Chicago. |
| Briggs, H. W., Wilmington. | Whitmer, L. W., Chicago. |
| Buckmaster, H. G., Wilmington. | Wood, H. W., Sheldon. |
| Cochran, M. F., Wilmington. | Worthington, H. C., Oak Park. |
| Pearson, G. Burton, Middletown. | INDIANA. |
| Spruance, J. H., Wilmington. | Buxton, E. J., Rockport. |
| Tyhout, R. Raymond, Wilmington. | Cox, N. D., Spencer. |
| Wales, J. P., Wilmington. | Crumpacker, C. B., South Bend. |
| | Doolittle, B. U., Ft. Wayne. |
| | Dowden, C. W., West Baden. |
| | Elliott, R. M., Needham. |
| | Gardner, Fletcher, Bloomington. |
| | Gilkison, John S., Burns City. |
| | Hicks, Leora F., Stilesville. |
| | Kreider, Martin K., Goshen. |
| | Lemon, H. K., Goshen. |
| | Monsen, J. D., Lafayette. |
| | Moore, E. P., South Bend. |
| | Troutman, Rodney E., Logansport. |
| | Yencer, Martin W., Boston. |
| | INDIAN TERRITORY. |
| | Hilsmeyer, F. E., Weleetka. |
| | Jones, W. E., Potean. |
| | Vance, B. J., Checotah. |
| | IOWA. |
| | Besore, A. L., Carson. |
| | Bliss, C. S., Renwick. |
| | Chesebrough, Samuel, Atalissa. |
| | Clark, S. W., Oskaloosa. |
| | Croy, C. C., Bonaparte. |
| | Daly, W. T., Cresco. |
| | Hauck, S. L., Ottumwa. |
| | Killeen, M. A., Dubuque. |
| | McCrea, F. M., Eddyville. |
| | Robb, J. B., Russell. |
| | Sheafe, E. A., Ottumwa. |
| | Wright, W. T., Denison. |
| | KANSAS. |
| | Beckner, E. J., Selden. |
| | Brown, M. D., Lebo. |
| | Buck, L. A., Peabody. |
| | Chambers, H. L., Lecompton. |
| | Fisher, C. E., Lyons. |
| | Guinn, J. H., Arkansas City. |
| | Hughes, J. F., Hartford. |
| | Lutz, E. J., Salina. |
| | Lagerstrom, F. G., Lindsborg. |
| | Rader, J. A., Caney. |
| | Searl, O. R., Belvue. |
| | Shelton, W. L., Woodlawn. |
| | Skoog, A. L., Parsons. |
| | Tinder, C. R., Englevale. |
| | Van Horn, C. B., Topeka. |
| | Van Velzer, C. A., Ft. Scott. |
| | Yandell, W. H., Piedmont. |
| | KENTUCKY. |
| | Bushart, R. L., Fulton. |
| | Scott, W. D., Georgetown. |
| | Skinner, C., Louisville. |
| | LOUISIANA. |
| | Landrum, Jacob H., Eros. |
| | MAINE. |
| | Allen, J. H., Portland. |
| | Bennet, E. H., Luber. |
| | Black, Laura M., Saco. |
| | Bumps, Wilbur A., Dexter. |
| | Caldwell, J. C., Buckfield. |
| | Davis, Gilman, Portland. |
| | Doughty, J. W., Parker Head. |
| | Downs, A. A., Fairfield. |
| | Gilson, A. S., Portland. |
| | Hagerthy, G. R., Bar Harbor. |
| | Hale, L. L., Chebeague Island. |
| | Hardy, T. E., North Vassalboro. |
| | Hutchins, J. G., Stonington. |
| | Kelley, D. H., Old Town. |
| | Mansur, J. H., Orrs Island. |
| | Marston, E. P., Monmouth. |
| | Oakes, W. K., Auburn. |
| | Phillips, G. A., Bar Harbor. |
| | Rice, Wm. E., Bath. |
| | Russell, E. W., Lewiston. |
| | Sawyer, W. G., Madison. |
| | Silshy, E. B., Rockland. |
| | Simmons, W. H., Bangor. |
| | Skofield, E. B., Brunswick. |
| | Snow, H. E., Bucksport. |
| | Stilson, E. F., Damarescotta. |
| | Sturtevant, A. H., Augusta. |
| | Sturgis, B. F., Auburn. |
| | Wakefield, R. W., Bar Harbor. |
| | Walker, J. E., Thomastown. |
| | Wardwell, M. A., Penobscot. |
| | Warren, S. P., Portland. |
| | Wassatt, C. E., Deer Isle. |
| | Weidman, S. Y., Rockport. |
| | Weid, G. Gilmore, Old Town. |
| | Whittier, F. N., Brunswick. |
| | MARYLAND. |
| | Greenbaum, H. S., Baltimore. |
| | Latimer, G. W., Hyattsville. |
| | McCarthy, H. D., Baltimore. |
| | McDonald, W. B., Baltimore. |
| | Owens, C. L., Cumberland. |
| | Rytina, A. G., Baltimore. |
| | MASSACHUSETTS. |
| | Adams, W. H., Northampton. |
| | Allen, W. H., Mansfield. |
| | Ames, J. E., Boston. |
| | Bacon, J. L., Brockton. |
| | Baldwin, H. C., Boston. |
| | Boardman, W. E., Boston. |
| | Bond, W. L., Somerville. |
| | Brown, F. H., Boston. |
| | Brown, W. E., North Adams. |
| | Bruce, D. A., Quincy. |
| | Carleton, D., Springfield. |
| | Cavanaugh, T. E., Holyoke. |
| | Chapin, F. W., Springfield. |
| | Cheever, D. W., Boston. |
| | Chisholm, M. D., Westfield. |
| | Churchill, J. D., Plymouth. |
| | Cleaves, J. E., Medford. |
| | Cumston, C. G., Boston. |
| | Cockett, Marguerite S., Boston. |
| | Coffin, A. B., Boston. |
| | Colburn, H. H., Boston. |
| | Connor, C. F., New Bedford. |
| | Coolidge, Algernon Jr., Boston. |
| | Cumston, C. G., Boston. |
| | Curry, E. F., Fall River. |
| | Daniel, Vivian, Watertown. |
| | Davis, Bessie D., Cambridge. |
| | Derby, Hasket, Boston. |
| | Dewey, C. G., Boston. |
| | Donoghue, J. C., Boston. |
| | Dow, G. F., Reading. |
| | Drake, Wm. A., North Weymouth. |
| | Duckering, Florence W., Boston. |
| | Dunbar, F. H., Boston. |
| | Durell, T. M., Somerville. |
| | Durgin, S. H., Boston. |
| | Dutton, S. L., Chelmsford. |
| | Ellis, E. K., Boston. |
| | Eveleth, C. W., Salem. |
| | Field, M. T., Salem. |
| | Finn, E. W., Dedham. |
| | Pourten, E. H., Waltham. |
| | Frazier, J. C., East Weymouth. |
| | Gabler, G. L., Holyoke. |
| | Gale, H. A., Winchester. |
| | Goldsborough, M. W., Cambridge. |
| | Granger, F. B., Boston. |
| | Guild, E. H., Springfield. |
| | Hanson, W. C., Cambridge. |
| | Harkins, D. S., Boston. |
| | Harriman, C. H., Whitinsville. |
| | Haskell, Nelson C., Amherst. |
| | Hatchett, W. J., Somerville. |
| | Hill, G. S., Marblehead. |
| | Howard, Amasa, Chelmsford. |
| | Howe, Oliver Hunt, Cohasset. |
| | Hunter, N. M., Hudson. |
| | Hurley, J. J., Boston. |
| | Jackson, O. H., Fall River. |
| | Jones, L. A., North Adams. |
| | Jouett, F. R., Cambridge. |
| | Kearney, J. H., Fitchburg. |
| | Keenan, H. J., So. Boston. |
| | Kelley, D. J., Worcester. |
| | Kennedy, E. A., Palmer. |
| | Kerr, Isabelle D., Boston. |
| | Knapp, P. C., Boston. |
| | Lawrence, Nellie L., Boston. |
| | Leahy, G. H. A., Lowell. |
| | Leary, C. J., New Bedford. |
| | Longfellow, H. N., Boston. |
| | Loring, R. P., Newton Center. |
| | Lovell, C. E., Whitman. |
| | Lowell, H. H., Boston. |
| | McCaulay, A. A., Boston. |
| | McDonald, J. A., Boston. |
| | McGauran, G. D., Lawrence. |
| | Mains, C. E., Boston. |
| | Miller, E. P., Fitchburg. |
| | Mullins, E. N., Baldwinville. |
| | Musgrave, Percy, Boston. |
| | Nason, A. C., Newburyport. |
| | Nickerson, G. W., Stoneham. |
| | Nolen, W. F., Boston. |
| | Noves, Margaret L., Boston. |
| | O'Brien, J. J., Dorchester Center. |
| | O'Brien, J. J., Dorchester Center. |
| | O'Day, G. F., Worcester. |
| | Ordway, Mabel D., Boston. |
| | Oviatt, G. A., South Sudbury. |
| | Parcher, Geo. C., Saugus. |
| | Perry, H. B., Northampton. |
| | Pierce, F. B., Haverhill. |
| | Pike, F. F., Melrose. |
| | Pinkham, J. G., Lynn. |
| | Pomeroy, H. S., Boston. |
| | Prescott, H. D., New Bedford. |
| | Provandee, P. H., Melrose. |
| | Putnam, Ralph, Winchester. |
| | Quincy, S. F., Gloucester. |
| | Record, Wellington, Wollaston. |
| | Rice, A. H., Boston. |
| | Rich, Chas. E., Lynn. |
| | Rohie, W. F., Baldwinville. |
| | Rodgers, C. W., Boston. |
| | Russell, W. B., Springfield. |
| | Sabine, G. K., Brookline. |
| | Sanger, G. E., Arlington. |
| | Sargent, G. A., Boston. |
| | Sawyer, E. L., Boston. |
| | Scofield, W. W., Dalton. |
| | Sears, J. S., Boston. |
| | Shores, H. T., Northampton. |
| | Smyth, R. S., Boston. |
| | Stacey, C. L., Boston. |
| | Starbird, E. P., Boston. |
| | Stetson, F. E., New Bedford. |
| | Stevens, Sara E., West Roxbury. |
| | Swan, R. W., Worcester. |
| | Sweetser, C. S., Lowell. |
| | Sylvester, A. W., Pittsfield. |
| | Taft, A. A., Boston. |
| | Tenney, E. S., Boston. |
| | Thompson, R. H., Malden. |