

gans, followed, soon or late, by more or less pronounced chill, febrile reaction and diaphoresis, the physiologic and pathologic expressions of thermometric and hygrometric environment. A simple and rational prophylaxis will readily suggest itself to those who are not wedded to the old ruts, and who do not go "round Robin Hood's barn," to find causation. If, instead of wooing the cool and chilling air of night in the garb of fashion, or going to sleep in the damp clothes worn during the day, and half covered, those living in such localities would pay due regard to ordinary hygienic laws, and take a friction bath, damp or dry, as night approaches, put on dry warm clothing, and sleep between flannel blankets, they may laugh to scorn both the marsh poison and pathogenic germs of even the lagoons of Hindostan, or the swamps of Louisiana.

W. L. SCHENCK, M.D.

"Audi Tertiam Partem."

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., July 4, 1895.

To the Editor:—In the June 29 issue of the JOURNAL, on page 1021, under the head of "A Question of Translation," Dr. G. A. Aschman, of Wheeling, W. Va., takes the liberty to so construe the latter part of my communication of June 15, (appearing under the heading of "*Audi Alteram Partem*,") as to make it appear that I have been guilty of incorrectly translating the German term "entgiften" which is the opposite of the German term "vergiften"—to poison—and which has no equivalent in the English language—except "disem-poison" perhaps.

The Doctor, after pretending to be familiar with the expressions of Binz—and after stating that I have no reason to take issue with Binz on his doctrine, sums up his article by stating that it is sometimes dangerous to make a translation when not perfectly familiar with the respective languages. In this I fully agree with the Doctor, and he will, no doubt, agree with me after reading this article, that it is still more dangerous to criticize that which one does not fully understand.

When I penned the words, "to poison the organism as it were," I knew full well that unless the readers thereof were familiar with the subject upon which Binz expressed himself, they would construe these words in a translatory sense, when, in fact they were penned in a definitory sense—as will be seen hereafter.

That slight incidents will furnish the key to great truths is fully illustrated in the present case—as the incidental error on my part in substituting "Buda-Pesth" for "Weisbaden," the place where Binz expressed himself, as quoted by me, goes to show that Dr. Aschman was not familiar with the expressions of Binz until I caused them to appear in print on June 15, as he would hardly have overlooked this error on my part, hence I am not surprised that the Doctor failed in comprehending the sense in which I penned the words, "to poison the organism as it were."

As "sero-therapy" is the outgrowth of just such expressions as those made by Binz at Weisbaden in 1883, and as the adoption or rejection of said therapeutic method in this country must depend upon a full understanding of the cardinal principles underlying it—I will take this opportunity to expose these principles more fully, for the benefit of those who are not familiar with the German language.

The subject upon which Binz expressed himself at Weisbaden was "Antagonism between Microbes and Toxins." He expressed himself in a bacteriologic sense—on the assumption that infectious diseases are due to specific microbes and their toxins, capable of antagonizing or chemically neutralizing one another in the blood—when he said: "Our future therapeutic efforts in infectious diseases must be toward '*den lebenden organismus zu entgiften*,' in contra-distinction to our past therapeutic efforts which have been toward '*den lebenden organismus zu entgiften*,' by eliminating the contagium at the bedside by such physiologic processes as emesis, catharsis, diaphoresis, diuresis," etc.

That a therapeutic method having for its object chemie neutralization of one toxin by another, or destruction of one microbe by another in the blood—phagocytosis as it were—differs radically from a therapeutic method having for its object physiologic elimination of the contagium, can hardly be gainsaid, hence I have good reason to be at issue with Binz, Dr. Aschman's opinion to the contrary notwithstanding. And inasmuch as I have shown that there exist no reliable scientific data that would justify us in assuming (see my papers, the "Status Presens of Antitoxic Blood

Serum," and the "Status Presens of Inherited Tuberculosis," read before the State Medical Society of California, April 16, 1895) that infectious diseases are caused by specific micro-organisms or their toxins, the majority of the American medical profession will no doubt agree with me that I made no "serious mistake" when I defined the "serum method," based upon the expressions of Binz and others, "to poison the organism as it were," especially so, when I have shown by reliable scientific data that the serum causes chemie decomposition of the blood and has increased the mortality from diphtheria in Berlin over 25 per cent.

Concluding, I will say, that while I would regard chemie neutralization of the etiologic factor concerning infectious diseases as the "ideal" therapeutic method in such diseases, still, until such results shall be demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt, I, and I believe the majority of the profession in this country, will continue in the future, as they have done in the past, to eliminate the poison, "*ad via naturam*," physiologically as it were.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. G. KUHLMAN, M.D.

Dr. Robert L. Annan.

To the Editor:—In your issue of June 8, on page 909, under the caption, "An Example to be Followed" it is stated that "Dr. Andrew Auvan of Emmitsburg, Md., who was 90 years old on April 27, has contributed \$50 to the Rush Monument Fund."

In a communication written immediately on reading this paragraph, but which has evidently failed to reach you, I begged you to state that the worthy physician whose example I hoped would be followed was Dr. Andrew Annan, of Emmitsburg, Md., whose father, Dr. Robert Landales Annan, was a student of Dr. Rush, and whose certificate of qualification for the practice of medicine, bearing this great man's signature, is now in the possession of the latter's grandson, Dr. Robert L. Annan, of Emmitsburg.

In asking you to make this correction, I beg also to remind the members of the ASSOCIATION that at its last meeting it was made their individual duty "to collect funds for the Rush Monument from their fellow-practitioners and transfer the amounts to the Treasurer of the Committee on Rush Monument at *as early a day as possible*"—and I hope that every delegate and member present at that meeting will promptly follow the example which our esteemed and venerable colleague, Dr. Annan, has set, by transmitting the funds he may collect to George H. Rohé, M.D., Secretary, Catonsville, Md.

Very respectfully,

ALBERT L. GIHON, M.D.,
Chairman Rush Monument Committee.

Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., July 6, 1895.

To the Editor:—In a recent issue, you reprint the greater part of an editorial appearing in the *Medical Press and Circular*, concerning the status of American diplomates and, while noting some errors, fail to point out that the "Female Medical College" to which allusion is made in the editorial, is a non-existent institution and has been so for over twenty-five years. The unfavorable light in which the college is placed, may be easily transferred by some persons to the only institution existing in Philadelphia for the instruction of women in medicine, namely, the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. This institution is a member of the Association of American Medical Colleges, has been represented at all its recent meetings and conforms to its requirements. I presume it is hardly necessary to state that the college is in good standing in the medical profession of the United States.

Yours,

HENRY LEFFMANN.

Illinois State Board of Health.

To the Editor:—Enclosed please find copy of a set of resolutions unanimously adopted by the Illinois State Board of Health, at its recent meeting held in Chicago June 25, 1895. Will you kindly give the same publication in the next issue of your JOURNAL? and greatly oblige,

J. W. SCOTT, M.D., Sec'y.

WHEREAS, The Faculty of the Northwestern University