

The administrative ability of the board of health has never been better, and if there have been a few cases overlooked, not reported, or concealed they should not come in for unjust censure. Every case coming under their care has been properly handled, and they stand ready to meet any emergency and to protect the city against any imported or local diseases.

W. BLAIR STEWART, M.D.

Was "Commercialism" Its Basis? A Protest.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Oct. 24, 1900.

To the Editor:—It seems to me most unfortunate that you should have allowed your excellent tuberculosis number of October 20 to be spoiled by giving access to it, of a paper which, apparently—for I do not want to do its author an injustice in case it was meant well—is a purely commercial advertisement of a special method of treatment so indistinctly described that those wishing to test its reputed virtues will have to write to its author for particulars. I refer to the paper by Dr. Lisle, of Columbus, on the Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. I believe that any one who reads it will be convinced that, however honest the intention of its author, he has been unfortunate in the way in which he wrote, if he wished to "avoid the appearance of evil."

When one comes forward with a new treatment it is customary to state fully and clearly each detail, and when its central point is a prescription to give its ingredients specifically. In Dr. Lisle's case, however, he gets no nearer to it than to mention that it is "a solution of unstable carbon compounds of the aromatic series," and in mentioning the apparatus necessary in the use of this compound he is too indefinite for any one to be sure whether a special apparatus known only to himself or the ordinary nebulizing apparatus, is required.

While one could easily criticize any treatment which shuts a consumptive away from the fresh air and substitutes an artificially medicated air for it, it is not to criticize its medical features that I write but to protest against the publication in THE JOURNAL, which should be above every other in the ethical and scientific standard of its papers, of articles which justify cause outsiders to sneer and fortifies the unjust belief that the American profession is a commercial one. If the essayist is innocent of any commercial intent, which I would gladly believe, I regret that he gives such cause for suspicion. Nebulous statements, such as here made, lead the least suspicious to think that to get the results spoken of the patient must put himself under the charge of the author, the only man who can know, from what he writes, how to carry out this new specific treatment. A clear and distinct statement of what drugs and apparatus he uses, thus opening his treatment to the possibility of verification and control by others, without the necessity of recourse to some special source of supply, would at least free him from any accusation of self-interest, though it may not cause the medical world to abandon the admirable method so unanimously advocated by the other writers in this number, or to believe that he any more than the thousands who have preceded him have found drugs which can compare with fresh air and hygiene in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. Grateful as are all our members to you for the great improvement you have worked in THE JOURNAL, I think I can safely undertake to speak for many of them when I hope that articles of this type may not be able to slip in unawares, but that everything published in it may be as excellent as are the balance of the papers in the number in question. Yours sincerely,

CHARLES L. MINOR, M.D.

Association News.

American Medical Association Medal.

The Committee on the award of the ASSOCIATION medal desires to call attention to the following: The AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION offers annually a gold medal valued at \$100.00 for the best essay on any subject relating to medicine or surgery. At the last meeting of the ASSOCIATION it was

decided that hereafter the recipient of the prize should be given the option of the gold medal or a bronze replica of the medal and the balance of the appropriation in money.

The competing essays must be typewritten or printed, and bear no mark revealing their authorship; but instead of the name of the author, there must appear on each essay a motto, and accompanying each essay a sealed envelope containing the name of the author and bearing on its outer surface the motto of identification. No envelope is to be opened by the Committee until a decision has been reached as to the most deserving essay, and the other essays have been returned to their respective owners. The Committee has authority to reject and return all essays in case none have been found worthy of the ASSOCIATION medal.

The Committee suggests as one of the important topics of the day that of Tropical Diseases, but, while suggesting this, does not wish to dictate in the slightest degree that this branch of medicine must be the subject discussed.

Competing essays must be in the hands of the Committee not later than March 1, 1901. For further information address any member of the Committee, which consists of the following: Dr. William Osler, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. C. W. Richardson, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Rudolph Matas, New Orleans, La.

Nicholas Senn Prize Medal.

The committee on the Senn Medal beg leave to call attention to the following conditions governing the competition for this medal for 1901:

1. A gold medal of suitable design is to be conferred upon the member of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION who shall present the best essay upon some surgical subject.

2. This medal will be known as the Nicholas Senn Prize Medal.

3. The award shall be made under the following conditions: a. The name of the author of each competing essay shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing a suitable motto or device, the essay itself bearing the same motto or device. The title of the successful essay and the motto or device is to be read at the meeting at which the award is made, and the corresponding envelope to be then and there opened and the name of the successful author announced. b. All successful essays become the property of the ASSOCIATION. c. The medal shall be conferred and honorable mention made of the two other essays considered worthy of this distinction, at a general meeting of the ASSOCIATION. d. The competition is to be confined to those who at the time of entering the competition, as well as at the time of conferring the medal, shall be members of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. e. The competition for the medal will be closed three months before the next annual meeting of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, and no essays will be received after March 1, 1901.

Communications may be addressed to any member of the committee, consisting of the following: Dr. Maurice H. Richardson, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Frederick Holme Wiggin, New York, N. Y.; Dr. Clayton Parkhill, Denver, Col.

Marriages.

DR. ELGIN O. BINGHAM, Niagara Falls, N. Y., to Miss Florence Estelle Young, Lockport, N. Y., October 17.

DR. ALBERT R. DA COSTA, JR., Chicago, to Dr. Helena K. Gray, Princeton, Ind., October 17.

DR. GEORGE W. DUFFICY, Sacramento, Cal., to Miss Alberta Evelyn Rackliffe, at San Francisco, October 24.

DR. WAYLAND S. HOUGH, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, to Miss Sadie F. Johnston, Ironton, Ohio, at Tolono, Ill., October 22.

DR. ROBERT E. McCANDLESS, Peery, Okla., to Miss Esther Harwood, at Cedar Rapids, Ia., September 27.

DR. GEORGE A. HOLLISTER to Miss Mary Lamb, both of Toledo, Ohio, October 6.

DR. PAUL MULFORD MECRAY, to Miss Jane Elizabeth Boyer, both of Camden, N. J., October 18.