

shall be annually paid out to those who during the immediate past 'have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind' in certain lines. The interest is to be divided into five equal parts to be allotted as follows: 'One part to the person who shall have made the greatest discovery or invention in the domain of *physics*; one part to the person who shall have made the most important *chemical* discovery or improvement; one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery in the domain of *physiology* or *medicine*; one part to the person who shall have produced in the field of *literature* the most distinguished work of an idealistic tendency; and one part to the person who shall have most or best promoted the *fraternity of nations* and the abolition or diminution of standing armies, and the formation and propagation of peace congresses.' The prizes in physics and chemistry are awarded by the Academy of Sciences in Stockholm; in physiology and medicine, by the Caroline Institute in Stockholm; in literature by the Swedish Academy in Stockholm; and for the work of peace by a committee of five persons nominated by the Norwegian Storting.

"The statutes of the Nobel Foundation, as also special rules concerning the distribution of the prizes, were ratified by the government on June 20, 1900. In accordance with these, the four above mentioned institutions, as distributors of the prizes, shall appoint, for two years at a time, fifteen delegates, the Academy of Sciences electing six, the other awarding bodies each electing three. The delegates, with whom decision rests concerning reports of audit, for two years running appoint four members of the board of the foundation, who shall meet in Stockholm and consist of Swedes; a fifth member, who is chairman of the board, is nominated by government. The board, which from its members shall elect a managing director, administers the funds and other moneys of the foundation, as also other property belonging to the foundation in so far as it is common to the prize-groups. For every Swedish prize-group the due authorities who are to distribute the prizes nominate a so-called Nobel Committee, consisting of three or five persons, who are to give their opinion anent the distribution of the prize. The corresponding deliberations anent the distribution of the peace prize shall be undertaken by the Nobel committee appointed by the Storting. To be chosen member of a Swedish Nobel Committee, it is not necessary to be a Swedish subject, or that the individual elected be a member of the special institution distributing the prize. In the Norwegian Nobel Committee other than Norwegians may also be members. Where so deemed necessary, the distributors may appoint an expert or specialist to take part as a member in a committee.

"As aids in the necessary preliminaries, as also otherwise to advance the objects of the foundation, the authorities who have to distribute the prizes may establish scientific institutions and other organizations, which shall be called Nobel Institutes. Foreigners, male or female, may be appointed at these institutes. Should the distributors of the prizes consider it advisable, the Nobel Institutes shall all be within the same precincts and similarly organized. The prizes are distributed annually (for the first time in 1901) on the high-day of the foundation, i. e., December 10 (the anniversary of the testator's death).

"To become a candidate for one of these prizes, it is necessary to be proposed in writing by a person competent thereto. (Applications for receiving a prize made by the author himself are not considered.) The right of proposing a candidate for a prize is held both by Swedish and foreign champions of culture in accordance with minute instructions issued by the corporations charged with adjusting the prizes. The proposal of a candidate should be accompanied by those works and other documents that are cited. The prize receiver, if possible, within six months of being awarded the prize on December 10, shall in Stockholm (as regards the prize for peace, in Christiania) give a public lecture on the work having gained the prize. No work shall be given a prize, unless by experience or expert examination it be deemed of such pre-eminent importance as is plainly indicated by the will. Should no work under consideration be deemed worthy of the prize, the money shall be reserved to the following year. As regards what is to be done, if the

prize can not then be awarded, see below. Within each prize-group, however, the prize must be awarded at least once in every five-year period. The amount of a prize can be divided between two works. If two or more persons have together produced a work to which a prize is awarded, the prize is given to all participants in common. Every awarding body has a right to decide the respective prize to be conferred also to institutions and associations. From the funds of the donation, at the commencement of its activity, a sufficient sum for premises for the due administration of the foundation is taken, as also for each group of prizes the sum of 300,000 kronor, for the expenses of organizing the Nobel Institutes. From the annual proceeds of the main fund, a tenth part shall be added to the capital; of the remainder, each group shall dispose of one-fifth. The sum will, of course, vary according to rate of interest, etc. At present, each prize-group will annually dispose of an amount of nearly 200,000 kronor. One-fourth of this sum will be set aside for the immediate expenses of awarding the prizes and for the Nobel Institute for the group in question. Thus for each of the five prizes there will be about 140,000 or 150,000 kronor (from \$37,000 to \$40,000). If a prize can not be awarded for two years consecutively (see above) the amount of the prize shall be added to the main fund. Three-fourths of those taking part in the decision may, however, determine that the sum shall instead be set aside as a special fund for the prize-group in question. The proceeds of such a fund may be used—otherwise than as prizes—to advance those objects ultimately aimed at by the testator."

From the above it is plainly seen that the prize-awarding institutions do not themselves exercise any initiatory action, but merely distribute the prizes to those, who among the duly proposed candidates are, in their opinion, the most worthy.

It seems that by these regulations justice and fairness in the administration of the vast funds and the awarding of the magnificent prizes, which are truly of "an unprecedented magnitude," are most admirably assured. The prize-awarding bodies stand above reproach. In looking over the list of those who have so far been honored with prizes, one is struck by the evident and notable impartiality as regards the nationality of the recipients. The only reason why an American has so far not become a recipient of a prize is probably that no American has as yet been proposed in due form. And until steps are taken duly to present our candidates to the prize-awarding institutions, we can not justly complain, that "the trustees in charge of the awarding of the prizes do not seem to be aware that there is such a continent as America on the globe."

A. E. ENGZELIUS,
Vice Consul of Norway.

The Migratory Needle Story.

MESCALERO, N. M., Nov. 24, 1906.

To the Editor:—In response to the editorial in THE JOURNAL, Nov. 17, 1906, urging that cases presenting the phenomena of migration be reported, the following report is made:

E. S., German, blacksmith, presented himself at my office, April 18, 1906, and showed me a pea-sized tumor on the upper outer aspect of the metacarpophalangeal articulation of the index finger of the right hand. The tumor was slightly tender on pressure, easily movable, and had a hard, gristly feel. He gave as a history that 14 years ago, while working over his anvil a small piece of his hammer flew off and embedded itself in the right side of his neck just under the angle of the jaw. From his description of the bleeding, evidently an artery was severed. It required the services of two physicians and several hours' time to arrest the hemorrhage which must have been deeply situated, as a large scar, caused by the work of the doctors, remains. The piece of steel could not be found. He stated that he believed the tumor on his hand contained that piece of steel and it was curiosity that caused him to come in. On cutting down on the tumor it was found to contain a small piece of steel, about the size and shape of the head of a four-penny cut nail. It was enclosed in a tough capsule, which came out with it.

While this man is an iron worker and is constantly exposed to injuries in which a small piece of metal might penetrate the

skin of his hands, he stated positively that nothing of the kind had occurred to his knowledge. The migration of the piece of steel in this instance can be very easily accounted for by considering that it was transported within the arteries. In the first instance it must have penetrated the facial artery just above the point where it is given off from the external carotid, or else entered directly into the external carotid itself. In either case, the facial artery being nearly vertical at this point, it could have sunk by its sheer weight, against the blood current, down the external carotid and common carotid to the innominate, whence, the subclavian opening out almost horizontally, it could have been swept by the blood current into that artery, thence down the arm through the axillary, brachial and radial and finally entered the dorsalis indicis in which it was carried until the lumen of the vessel became too small for it to go further. Then by the *vis a tergo* and muscular action of the hand, it worked out of the artery and formed the tumor under the skin. The patient said he had noticed it only two or three days before requesting its removal.

IRVING MCNEIL, M.D.

DEKALB, ILL., Nov. 22, 1906.

To the Editor:—Your article on the "Migratory Needle" has just been noted. In one case, to my positive knowledge, a needle lay within the pericardial membrane and parallel to the heart, in a slaughtered beef. I had the specimen in my office for years. In another case the needle had transfixed the apex of the heart of a chicken, which, when killed, showed no sign of interference with the heart or the condition of the fowl. Nearly one-half the length of the needle had passed transversely through the apex of the heart. Reference can be given to those who made the discovery. In both instances the needles had doubtless been swallowed and had penetrated the tissues until they occupied the position as found.

J. M. POSTLE, M.D.

Biographical Cyclopedic of Medical Men.

BALTIMORE, NOV. 28, 1906.

To the Editor:—I am at present engaged in a piece of work which must be a matter of profound interest to every practitioner in the country, and for this reason I turn to THE JOURNAL to secure the coöperation of its readers.

I am preparing a Cyclopedic of American Medical Biography of the worthies who have passed away in this country and in Canada from the earliest times down to the present, including such living practitioners as have retired from active service.

The Cyclopedic will be issued in several volumes, the names being given in alphabetical order. I shall have the coöperation of some of the best men in the country, men who have already made a reputation as students of medical history.

I want in this work to give a full account of the lives, something of the personalities of the medical or surgical activities, and of the writings of all our leading men. I want also to include a brief sketch of the lives of men who have been very prominent in their own locality without, however, having been widely known as writers or original investigators. There are a number of men who have powerfully influenced the trend of medical and surgical thought who have never put a pen to paper to put their work before the profession.

In prosecuting this work, I shall have the aid of men who will take up the country by states, as well as those who will take up the various specialists. I want, in order to further my aim, to get hold of all the biographies that I can lay hands on which have been published in medical journals or elsewhere. I want also photographs, or photographs of pictures of these men.

It is for this reason I write to you, to ask the profession at large, to send me names, personal communications or biographies which they may have on their shelves and can spare, or medical journals with references to biographies. I shall appreciate as a special personal favor any such communications.

The work will take two, perhaps three years, to complete. I will write later and give you the names of my collaborators, and ask for suggestions as to certain neighborhoods which may prove difficult to cover in this way. I will, also, at a still

later date, publish a list of the names to be included in the biography, asking for further suggestions, that I may fill in all the gaps. The work is an ambitious one and is to be more elaborate than any which has yet appeared. I purpose to make the biographies anywhere from 10 or 15 lines up to as many pages; in the latter case using freely such biographies as Thacher's published in 1828. I shall be glad if any who are willing to help in this matter will write directly to me at 1418 Eutaw Place, Baltimore.

HOWARD A. KELLY.

Professional Loyalty.

SULLIVAN, MO., Nov. 17, 1906.

To the Editor:—About six months ago Dr. J. P. Dunigan of this place was sued for \$30,000 damages for alleged failure to replace a dislocated hip. Trial was postponed once, and last week plaintiff took change of venue to Steelville, where the case will be called probably next month. Every physician in the county, including those subpoenaed by plaintiff, was on the side of the defendant, which caused the following remark from plaintiff's lawyer: This is the first and only place we have ever seen or heard of where all the doctors "stick" together.

O. N. SCHUDE, M.D.

[The progress of organization in this country is having excellent results in the elimination of jealousy and strife among physicians, and the above is only one example of this fact. Often in the past it has been common for a physician to testify against another, against whom a malpractice suit had been started, even when facts had to be juggled to enable him to do so. Happily, such conditions are now becoming more rare.—Ed.]

Cleansing Blood Pipettes.

TOLEDO, OHIO, Nov. 29, 1906.

To the Editor:—In your last issue I read Dr. Benmosche's article describing the use of a camera bulb to cleanse blood pipettes. It may be of some interest to readers of THE JOURNAL to know that an ordinary rubber ear syringe will be more satisfactory for this purpose, and for many it is more easily obtainable. For some time I have been using one for the same purposes as described by Dr. Benmosche and have found that the end of the pipette fits into the rubber "tit" of the bulb ear syringe better, and with less likelihood of leakage of air and fluid, than with any other bulb I have used.

GEORGE H. JONES.

Medical Legislation

Endorses National Health Department and Insurance Fee Campaign.—The Ohio Valley Medical Society has unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, The search after knowledge, largely among medical men, has, in recent years, brought to light many valuable truths relative to the prevention and cure of disease and the relief of suffering, making it incumbent on the medical profession to provide for the well-being of society, both in time of peace and war; and

WHEREAS, In caring for the soldiers of the United States and protecting the citizens at home from contagious and infectious diseases, during the late Spanish-American War, our experience demonstrated that the medical departments of the Army and of the Navy were handicapped in the great work in hand by superior officers, not that they were opposed to the ideas of the medical department, but that they were either indifferent or did not realize the importance of the undertaking; and

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association has a National Legislative Council, of which Dr. Charles A. L. Reed, Cincinnati, is chairman; now be it

Resolved, That the Ohio Valley Medical Society, in council assembled, endorses the action taken by the National Legislative Council at its session held in the city of Washington, in January last, on the following subjects:

(a) The question of a Department of Public Health, with a representative in the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

(b) The Army and Navy Reorganization Bill, and such other bills as may present themselves to the National Legislative Body.

And be it further
Resolved, That we heartily endorse the action taken by the Kentucky State Medical Association at its meeting in Owensboro, and by other state organizations, and hereby pledge ourselves to resist the efforts of insurance companies to lower the fee for medical examinations, and we pledge our support to the International Physicians' Association.

C. Z. AUD,

Member of the National Legislative Council for Kentucky.