

tioners should agree in free and open discussion with the specialists and surgeons, and then proceed jointly to educate the public to take the proper view.

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE THOMPSON-McFADDEN PELLAGRA COMMISSION.

The Thompson-McFadden Pellagra Commission has presented its "first progress report." The unabridged report is a paper-covered book of 148 pages, full of clinical data and statistical tables and profusely illustrated. It discredits the spoiled maize theory and the Sambon theory, but recognizes a mere possibility that the bite of an infected stable fly, *Stomoxys calcitrans*, may transmit the disease. It recognizes indications "that pellagra is an infectious disease, in some way transmissible from person to person," but the "particular mode of transmission" is not at all proven to its satisfaction.

It concludes: "Our ideas concerning the location of a hypothetic infection in the body of a pellagrin and the exact mode or means by which it gains the body of a new victim are very indefinite." Thus far the investigation, though inconclusive, has been logical and thorough. The report was prepared by Capt. J. F. Siler, Medical Corps, U. S. A.; Passed Assistant Surgeon P. E. Garrison, U. S. N., and Dr. W. J. McNeal, Assistant Director of Laboratories in the New York Post-Graduate Medical School, with several other prominent collaborators. Capt. Siler is an Alabamian by birth and a graduate of the University of Virginia.

It is to be hoped that the Commission will continue its valuable work. It is to such unbiased investigations by able men free from any theories, and not afraid to say, "I do not know," that we must look for the final solution of this most difficult problem.

To the writer everything indicates that pellagra is primarily a gastro-intestinal intoxication, or infection, and until the spoiled corn

theory has been thoroughly disproved, or the etiology discovered with certainty, no effort should be spared to prevent the sale, or use, of impure corn products.

SORDID MOTIVES IN HONORED POSITIONS.

Much blame has been attached to religious newspapers for publishing the advertisements of notorious fake nostrums well known to be absolutely worthless and a fraud upon the innocent purchaser, who has so much faith in the eminent D.D. who edits the periodical that he believes all that the eminent D.D. allows to appear therein. The acceptance of the dishonest ads by the eminent D.D. is not to be condoned by his ignorance concerning their character. He knows their worthlessness very well, for such articles are repeatedly exposed by some of the standard medical journals, and sometimes by such great literary publications as the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Collier's Weekly*. There is but one reason, one explanation possible. It is the sordid greed for gain.

The eminent D.D. permits the odor of his sanctity to disguise the stench of a heartless cruelty that robs the poor and suffering under false pretenses, and often steals from them the brief and precious time that would enable scientific medicine to save their imperiled lives. It is a cruel breach of confidence.

But religious journals are not alone in this unpleasant form of delinquency. Certain well known *medical* journals, with long lists of medical subscribers and many prominent medical and surgical contributors, have been much blamed for publishing the advertisements of proprietary preparations well known to be absolutely worthless, and a fraud upon the confiding doctor, who has so much respect for the eminent M.D. who edits the periodical that he believes all that the eminent M.D. allows to appear therein. The acceptance of the deceptive ads by the eminent M.D. is not to be condoned by his ignorance concerning their

character. He knows the fallacy of their claims very well, for they have been mercilessly exposed by reliable investigators employed by organized medicine for the purpose of protecting its members against being deceived by just such pretensions. There is but one reason, one explanation why a reputable medical journal should persist in publishing a deceptive advertisement of an exposed fraud. It is the sordid greed for gain. The eminent M.D. has permitted the dignity of his position to be degraded as a cloak to hide the unworth of fallacious pretenses that rob the conscientious doctor of the weapons which he needs in fighting his daily and hourly battles with disease and death, weapons he would have utilized had not his trusted guide betrayed and misled him, for profit. It was a breach of confidence, and unfortunately, others unconsciously and innocently aided and abetted the fraud by permitting their own original articles over their own signatures to appear in the pages of such a journal. In such instances, the finer the articles and the more famous the contributors, the greater the mischief. Hard-working Dr. Cityman has time to read only one or two journals. In one is an article by Dr. Esculapius, in the other is a contribution by Dr. Hippocrates. In both is an advertisement, say of Sanatogen, flamboyant, extravagant, statistical. "Just what so-and-so needs! Must be all right, for Esc. and Hipp. wouldn't contribute to an unreliable journal." "And there you ar-r-re," as Dooley says.

Fellow Doctors: D.D.s may preach and M.D.s may talk, but fraud and deceit are dishonest, dishonorable, damnable!

There is no getting around that.

SOUTHERN MEDICAL AUTHORS.

In view of the fact that the vast majority of the text-books used in the teaching of medicine are the product of minds unfamiliar with conditions that modify disease processes in the Southern States, the JOURNAL is always glad

to welcome any new accession to Southern medical literature.

The desire for medical books composed or modified by Southern authors is inspired by something more than local pride or loyalty. There is a real need of recorded observations, opinions and conclusions of things Southern because some conditions are peculiar to and others are modified by the climatic and social environments there prevailing. This is especially true in therapeutics. Whatever may be the ultimate cause, it remains true that men of the South, equal in ability and experience to those in the Northern and Eastern States, sometimes hold opinions and principles of treatment in numerous conditions entirely at variance with those of the latter. So much is this the case that often where text-books and professors in great Eastern colleges declare that such and such drugs are inert and useless, or that these or those plans of treatment in various forms of illness are erroneous and perhaps injurious, the Southern practitioner opens wide his eyes in honest surprise, and declares flatly that he knows better! That the experience of half a lifetime has taught him the true value of the things the others condemn, and that, in his opinion, if the doubters had given close personal attention to their cases instead of leaving them to the unfeeling care of public hospitals they would know better also, in spite of frogs, cats and guinea pigs.

Now the truth must lie between extremes, as is almost always the case in chronic disputes, and the Southern view, though rich in supporters, lacks expositors. Therefore, the JOURNAL welcomes "Pharmacology, Clinical and Experimental," a text-book which is reviewed on another page. Though the authors are noted doctors of Vienna and Heidelberg, yet the translator is a Southern doctor, a professor in a Southern university. He is Dr. John Taylor Halsey, a graduate of Johns Hopkins and Professor of Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine in the Medical