

Ho. Dr. Barrios assumed office last September, and within a week he had secured the passage of a law by the senate, organizing a national board of public health as a section of his department. Its duties are to be similar to those of our marine-hospital service, with a director and a subdirector for the subsections of hygiene and demography. Peru, with nearly 1,000,000 square miles, has only 4,000,000 inhabitants, and the population has been declining or stationary for several years.

Campaign Against Charlatans and Proprietary Medicines in Germany.—The Cologne courts recently fined a "magnetopath" named Offermann \$250 for his pretensions that he was able to cure all diseases. The same court (Landgericht) has also recently sent out a notice warning the public against "Warner's Safe Cure," which is being advertised extensively throughout the country. The notice enumerates the ingredients of the remedy and reiterates that there is no such thing as a universal medicine to cure all diseases, and that the price of the remedy in question far exceeds the actual value of the ingredients. The public is therefore warned against purchasing this useless preparation (nutzloses Mittel). The local board of health at Carlsruhe has issued a similar notice in regard to "Fluocol," a much advertised oil remedy for pains of all kinds, asthma, rheumatism, etc., warning against its internal use on account of the danger of injury to the kidneys from its ingredients.

Professional Secrecy.—The national board of health at Buenos Ayres was recently consulted by the courts in regard to a suit brought by a physician against an estate for services rendered. The physician, in bringing the suit, enumerated the particulars of his services and demanded remuneration for conducting a premature delivery, curetting and after-care. The patient was an unmarried woman, and the affair had been conducted at her request with complete secrecy. The board of health materially reduced the amount to be paid, and severely censured the physician for his lack of professional secrecy in the matter. The death of the patient in the interim was no excuse for proclaiming the details of the services rendered. They also censured him for conducting such an operation without insisting on the presence of another medical man. The action of the board was modeled on Brouardel's maxims, which it cites from his work, "La Responsabilité Médicale." Several pages are devoted to the case in the *Semana Médica* of September 17.

Recent Important Medical Congresses in Europe.—In Germany the Congress of Physicians and Naturalists was held at Cassel, September 20 to 26. This is the annual meeting of the association devoted to research and practice in the medical and allied sciences. The attendance is always well into the thousands. The principal feature this year was Behring's address on tuberculosis, which was reviewed on page 994. In France the congresses of surgery and urology have just concluded their sessions at Paris. The subjects discussed at the former were "Exclusion of the Intestine," with addresses by H. Hartmann of Paris and others, and "Brain Tumors." The subjects appointed for discussion at the Congress of Surgery next year are "Hematology from the Surgical Standpoint," with an address by Tuffier of Paris, and "Surgical Treatment of Biliary Cirrhosis," with address by Monprofit of Angers. The Congress of Urology discussed "Rebellious Cystitis" and "Surgery of the Genito-urinary Organs," with addresses by Imbert of Montpellier, Pasteau of Paris, and others, Professor Guyon in the chair. Among the communications presented on surgery of the genital organs and urethra was one by Dr. Cumston of Boston. Our French and German exchanges give full particulars of these congresses in their last and current issues.

Correspondence.

A National Research Laboratory.

MILTON, KY., Oct. 28, 1903.

To the Editor.—Your endorsement of the Smallpox Research Laboratory in Cleveland (*THE JOURNAL*, Oct. 24, 1903, p. 1029) is commendable and justified. Would it not be better to have a national laboratory, under the auspices of a department of health, for studies on the etiology and pathology of all contagious and infectious diseases? Does not this work in Cleveland and Boston emphasize the need of the strong arm of the government to prosecute this important work?

S. E. HAMPTON, M.D.

[Researches are now being carried on in the Hygienic Laboratory of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service on the etiology and pathology of smallpox and of other diseases. A building, thoroughly equipped, has recently been completed, and is now being used for the purpose. The Army Medical Department is also doing good work of this kind in connection with the Army Medical School. The lamented Walter Reed, at the time of his death, was engaged in some interesting work on smallpox. The laboratory connected with the Medical Department of the Army in Manila is doing good work in the investigation of tropical diseases.—Ed.]

Dosage of Carbolic Acid.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Nov. 2, 1903.

To the Editor.—In an editorial in *THE JOURNAL*, October 31, you express surprise at the possibility of administering carbolic acid in more than 7-drop doses without grave results. I, too, had been taught to regard the internal administration of carbolic acid as a dangerous procedure until I became a surgeon in the British African service in 1893, where I learned that 15-drop doses often repeated afforded the best cure for the diarrhea and dysentery so prevalent and fatal along the west coast of Africa.

W. LAURENCE STEVENSON, M.D.

Queries and Minor Notes.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS will not be noticed. Queries for this column must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, but the request of the writer not to publish his name will be faithfully observed.

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN SWITZERLAND.

GUALALA, CAL., Oct. 29, 1903.

To the Editor.—Will you kindly inform me, under Queries and Minor Notes in *THE JOURNAL*: 1. If foreigners can take up medical practice in Switzerland? 2. The names of the medical journals in Switzerland and where they are published? ENQUIRER.

ANS.—1. Foreigners must pass through some of the government examinations—the first, third and fourth—which are conducted in German and French and which are likely, we believe, to be rather thorough. One will probably also have to show a longer period of study of medicine than is demanded in this country. 2. At least three medical journals are published in Switzerland, possibly more: *The Correspondenzblatt für die Schweizerische Aerzte*, the *Revue Médicale de la Suisse Romande* and the *Bull. Internationale de la Soc. de la Croix Rouge*. The first is published in Basle, the other two in Geneva.

SADISM.

DETROIT, Nov. 4, 1903.

To the Editor.—In *THE JOURNAL*, October 31, p. 1098, under "A Warning to Wealthy Parents," there occurs the phrase "proved to be a typical case of extreme sadism." The last word is a new one to me; neither the Standard nor Century dictionaries have it. Can you give its true meaning and derivation? There may be others who do not like to pass over words that are new to their vocabulary.

G. C.

ANS.—The word means a sexual perversion which obtains satisfaction in inflicting cruelty on others. It is derived from the Marquis de Sade, a historical example of this type, and himself an author of works on sexual matters published in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

Marriages.

CHARLES H. AYLING, M.D., Gridley, Ill., October 28.

OLIVER P. COE, M.D., to Miss Kathryn Hunter, both of Cincinnati, November 11.

CLARK A. BUSWELL, M.D., Chicago, to Miss Emma Rink of Elgin, Ill., November 4.

EMORY M. GOODWIN, M.D., to Miss Edith Shumway, both of Glenville, Ohio, October 27.

BENJAMIN D. MOSHER, M.D., to Miss Minnie Hess, both of Troy Grove, Ill., October 23.

ELMA L. JANES, M.D., Madison, Wis., to George H. Townsend of Dayton, Ohio, October 29.

LOUIS V. SAPHI, M.D., San Jose, Cal., to Miss Nancy Wallace of Woodland, Cal., October 21.