

mild, buoyant effect, so advantageous, instead of alcoholic stimulation, to relieve depression and fatigue from mental or physical exertion" is nonsensical, if, indeed, it is not mendacious balderdash.

Calcium and potassium have important functions in the body, but any deficiency that may arise is usually attributable to an inability of the body to utilize that which is supplied, for there is seldom any deficiency of these salts in the food, and when they are needed they are best supplied as simple solutions of the salts in appropriate doses without all of the other constituents of Phillips' Phospho-Muriate of Quinine Comp.

Phosphoric acid exerts practically the same actions as other mineral acids, hydrochloric being usually preferred for internal administration in certain forms of indigestion, aside from which they are seldom used as such.

In the more recent literature for Phillips' Phospho-Muriate of Quinine Comp., we find the attempt to utilize the well known craze about phosphorus, which has been through so many phases, every one of which has had its day and has been discarded.

The phosphoric acid and phosphates present in Phillips' Phospho-Muriate of Quinine are of no more value in nervous diseases than is simple sodium phosphate which does not require the addition of a host of other ingredients for its action. As a matter of fact, the phosphates of calcium and potassium present in a dose of Phillips' Phospho-Muriate of Quinine are probably devoid of appreciable effect in practically all conditions.

To pretend that one who suffers from physical and nervous exhaustion can be materially benefited by this mixture is sheer nonsense and is unworthy of a moment's consideration by a clinician who is called on to treat such patients.

Iron is useful in anemia, as every one knows. Iron has practically no other field of usefulness in therapeutics. When it is indicated it should be administered in a simple form, such as the pill of ferrous carbonate, for example, and not in a "shotgun" mixture that is quite as likely to do harm as good.

The claim that a satisfactory level of blood pressure can be maintained by Phillips' Phospho-Muriate of Quinine is mentioned only to condemn as the limit of impudent therapeutic claims. It is an insult to the intelligence of any practitioner to pretend that any known agent or combination of remedial agents can maintain a uniform blood pressure in any one of innumerable conditions.

In short, Phillips' Phospho-Muriate of Quinine Comp. is a complex and irrational mixture exploited by means of unwarranted claims. It is a survival of the old days of therapeutic chaos when impossible and fantastic chemical formulas were gravely published and as solemnly accepted without question, and also without the slightest understanding on the part of many; when the most eminent of practitioners did not hesitate to give glowing testimonials for lithia waters that contained no more lithium than ordinary river water; when no therapeutic claim was too preposterous to receive acceptance, no theory too nonsensical to justify the use of all manner of claptrap mixtures for all manner of conditions.

Contrasting Casualty Lists.—The *Health Bulletin*, State Board of Health of North Carolina, has adopted the unique experiment of printing in its *Health Bulletin* the names of the boys from that state who have been killed or wounded in France and comparing it with lists of those killed at home by typhoid fever, those severely injured in the performance of duty, and those seriously injured through carelessness or ignorance in their home state. It is shown that in France, for this year up to August 1, eighty-six "Tar Heels" have given up their lives or have been wounded in battle. During the same period 1,379 citizens of the state have needlessly given their lives or suffered weeks of illness because of typhoid fever. The eighty-six who died or were wounded in France were in the performance of duty. The 1,379 who died or suffered in North Carolina from typhoid fever died or suffered from an absolutely preventable disease.

Correspondence

ABORTION AS A SEQUELA OF INFLUENZA

To the Editor:—In the epidemic of influenza now prevalent I have noticed that pregnant women are especially liable to die. They usually abort or contract the very pronounced type of pneumonia, with cyanosis, the lungs full of coarse, mucous râles, and death in from two to three days.

In Stroudsburg, where I assisted Dr. Angle, nearly every pregnant woman I saw died. Dr. Durham, who has just returned from a mining camp near Punxsutawney, reports a similar condition. I do not recall anything like this in previous epidemics and have seen no mention of the fact in this one.

Bacillus abortus of Bang is so closely allied to the influenza group that the question of their being identical is raised by these observations.

In Ziemssen's Encyclopedia, 1875 edition, in an article by Zuelzer, I find: "Pregnant women frequently suffer abortion. . . . This effect of influenza repeatedly verified in many epidemics . . . analogous phenomenon in other infectious diseases."

M. W. BALL, M.D., Warren, Pa.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BELGIAN AND FRENCH PHYSICIANS

To the Editor:—I beg to acknowledge through your columns the following contributions in cash to aid the civilian physicians of Belgium and France when they again return to their looted offices. The prospect now is that they will soon be able to do so. Meantime the money that I have forwarded to Professor Depage in LaPanne and the Comité d'appui des réfugiés de professions libérales through the Belgian and French Relief Associations of this city are accumulating in bank ready to be used whenever it is possible to do so.

Including the prior contributions, the sum total that I have been able to forward is \$2,624.88, and the estimated value of the instruments that have been forwarded amounts to \$4,360.

I wish particularly to acknowledge the very generous contributions of Dr. Gifford and his partners in Omaha. They have contributed \$1,000 of the entire amount. Dr. C. T. Faries of Narberth, Pa., also most generously gave \$10 a month for eight months, when he entered the service.

I trust that the members of the profession will be willing now to give more largely than before because the need is urgent. The villainous destruction which the Huns are visiting on even every little village has wiped out practically everything that our civilian confrères ever had. They will resume their work with nothing but willing hands and warm hearts. It is up to us to help them out of their troubles.

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN CASH

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| Dr. William G. Rowe, Blue Springs, Mo. | \$ 5.00 |
| Dr. Clarence T. Faries Narberth, Pa. (fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth contributions) | 40.00 |
| Dr. H. Gifford and his partners, Drs. James M. Patton, W. F. Callfas and John B. Potts, Omaha | 500.00 |
| Dr. Anna Odell, Detroit | 10.00 |
| Dr. Clyde L. Cummer, Cleveland | 5.00 |
| Dr. C. W. More, Eveleth, Minn. (through Dr. John M. Robinson, Duluth) | 25.00 |
| | \$585.00 |
| Additional interest | 6.54 |
| | \$591.54 |

DONORS OF INSTRUMENTS

Dr. Alexis Dupont Smith, Philadelphia; Miss E. K. Bray, New York; sundry physicians through Dr. J. M. Robinson, Duluth, Minn.; Dr. Walter J. Freeman, Philadelphia; Widow of Dr. A. T. Clark, Shick-shinny, Pa.; Dr. F. S. Spearman, Whiting, Iowa; Dr. Charles M. Montgomery, Philadelphia; Dr. W. Estell Lee, Philadelphia; Dr. C. L. Cummer, Cleveland; Dr. L. B. Pillsbury, Lincoln, Neb.

Messrs. Harvey R. Pierce & Co. have very kindly put these instruments in order and packed them for transmission to Europe.

W. W. KEEN, M.D., Philadelphia.

Major, M. C., U. S. Army.