

was the practical management of the exhibits made by persons and firms seeking patronage from the doctors. Under the supervision of Mr. E. P. Lorz, they were so arranged as to be presented in logical order and without confusion. A glance at the names of the officers elected to preside over the destinies of the Association during the ensuing year will show that the selection was made upon the grounds of ability and worth. They earned their honors. Lexington, Ky., is the place selected for the meeting of the Association next October, and if the expression of the members can be taken as an indication of the attendance at that meeting, it will be a record-breaker.

Only two incidents marred the perfection of the occasion. One was the unavoidable absence of Dr. Witherspoon, of Nashville, and the other was the recall of Dr. Barker, of Johns Hopkins University, by a telegram announcing the sudden death of one of his children. He has the sympathy of every member of the organization in his bereavement.

A laudable innovation was the establishment of an annual reward, a medal, for the member who contributes the most valuable original research. This year it was awarded to Dr. C. C. Bass, of New Orleans, for the cultivation of the malarial parasite *in vitro*.

The JOURNAL was much gratified by the many expressions of approval heard on every hand. Thus encouraged, it hopes during the ensuing year to render still more efficient service to the Association and to the cause of progressive medicine. Let us all attack with renewed vigor the tasks which patriotism and duty have set before us.

Autotomy

Truly, to the making of new words there is no end, and the above is an example. It relates to surgical operations performed by surgeons upon their own tissues.

In the Medical Record for October 5, 1912, three such operations are noted, the operator

in each case using cocaine as a local anesthetic.

The first case was the excision of a finger; the second, bilateral ingrowing toenail; the third case was a Turkish surgeon who operated upon himself for varicose; and there was a fourth, a French "naval officer, who was led to undertake a radical cure of his own hernia."

All four of these "autotomies" were without untoward incidents and perfectly successful. There was neither pain nor mishap. One of the patients experienced a slight nausea "at the unpleasant sensation of scraping his own peritoneum," but a sip of hot coffee gave relief.

Though these incidents are novel, they will hardly become customary.

The Nicolaidi Treatment of Pellagra

In a recent number of the JOURNAL was published an illustrated article by Dr. Jean Nicolaidi, of Paris, France, upon the treatment of pellagra by an "Organo-Mineralized Radio-Actuated Serum." The article aroused considerable interest because of the claims of its author to have originated a really efficient treatment of the disease. In the October number of "The Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene," published in London, appears another article similar to the one previously published in this JOURNAL and illustrated by some of the same cuts. The Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene says at the close of the article: "As this national health problem is of the greatest importance to the United States, we thought it useful to give Dr. Jean Nicolaidi's report."

The SOUTHERN MEDICAL JOURNAL has not thus far received reports from any American physician experimenting with this so-called Nicolaidi treatment.

Extra-Professional

An exchange records an instance of presence of mind in an emergency which is prob-