

does not claim to be a complete system of skin diseases, but apparently gives very satisfactory descriptions of the more common forms, while omitting some of those rare conditions that are liable to be met with only by, and are of interest to, the specialist. The work is very fully illustrated, largely with colored plates, and some of these, if not all, appear very satisfactory. The uncolored illustrations are in our opinion as valuable as the others. The work makes a very favorable impression.

LABORATORY MANUAL OF PHYSIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY. By Elbert W. Rockwood, B.S., M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology in the University of Iowa. Illustrated. Philadelphia, New York and Chicago: The F. A. Davis Company. 1899.

This is a very handy volume which ought to be useful and popular. So far as we are able to see, the subject is well presented and its statements are full and clear, meeting all the needs of a laboratory manual.

Deaths and Obituaries.

FRANCIS C. PLUNKETT, M.D., died suddenly, November 29, in Lowell, Mass. He was born in Casthemore House, Ireland, March 13, 1842, attended the seminary of Achoury, at Ballaghderreen, and was matriculated later at the Royal College of Surgeons. He had a large experience in dispensary work in his native country before he came to America, in 1863, when he graduated in medicine. Almost immediately after his arrival here, he entered the army and was appointed assistant-surgeon to the 183d Ohio Volunteers. At the close of the Civil War, he was assigned to duty to the Bery-House Hospital, Wilmington, N.C., and from there was transferred to the Invalid Corps at Washington, D.C. Early in 1866, Dr. Plunkett went to Lowell, where he has been in practice since. He was one of the founders of St. John's Hospital, on the medical staff of which he served thirty-three years, being president several years. He was consulting physician to the Board of Health in 1871. He had been an alderman, a city commissioner, a member of the advisory board of the City Hospital, a member of the General Butler Post, G. A. R., and was a companion of the first class of the Loyal Legion. He maintained an active connection with the Massachusetts Medical Society, and was president of the northern district in 1887. With the death of Dr. Plunkett there passes out of view one of the most remarkable physicians ever known in Massachusetts. Though not known as a writer, on account of the demands of an enormous practice, he was a man of deep culture and versatile accomplishments.

ADELINE MARTINE REA, M.D., Woman's Medical College, Pa., 1893, died in York, Pa., November 23, of tuberculosis, aged 27 years.

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS LOCKWOOD, M.D., College of Physicians and Surgeons, N.Y., 1865, was discovered dead in his office chair, in Brooklyn, N.Y., the morning of December 8.

STUART B. CARLISLE, M.D., Bellevue Medical College, N.Y., 1881, of Mount Vernon, N.Y., died from cardiac disease, in the Harlem Hospital, New York City, December 8. An hour before his death he was found ill in the street, by a policeman.

SAMUEL TREAT ARMSTRONG, M.D., St. Louis Medical College, 1879, died in Manila, Philippine Islands, December 4, from leukemia. He was a native of Ohio and appointed from New York, a brigade surgeon, U. S. Volunteers, June 4, 1898. At the time of death he was surgeon of the Thirty-second Infantry, U. S. A.

DEATHS ABROAD.

William Allan Ira Case, M.D., the oldest citizen in the city of Hamilton, Ont., died on the 2d inst., at the age of 95 years. He was born in that city and made it his home all his life, and had practiced medicine for more than half a century.

Dr. Aubry, of Saint-Brieux, known outside his immediate circle by numerous works on the contagion of murder, influence of the press on criminality and other forensic subjects, is dead; also Dr. Carlos Valdes, a prominent physician, writer and legislator in France, born in Santiago, Cuba. F. V. Birch-Hirschfeld, professor of general pathology at Leipsic, died recently.

Miscellany.

Not Vaccin Virus.—The preparation known as anthrax vaccin or blackleg vaccin, for preventing disease in cattle known as anthrax or blackleg, the United States General Appraisers at New York hold, is not vaccin virus, and, therefore not entitled to free entry under paragraph 692, act of 1897.

Recording Telephone.—Young Professor Dussaud of Geneva, Switzerland, who has invented a phonograph for the deaf, a kinematograph for the blind, etc., has now constructed a recording telephone which, in combination with a phonograph, automatically records the message received over the wire. The message is delivered later through the phonograph. We note as a curiosity, by the way, the recent study of the voice and music, reversing the action of the phonograph, and of motion by reversing the kinematograph.

Indications and Technic of Thyrotomy.—Sir F. Semon, Schmiegelow and Goris have been commissioned to report at the International Congress of Medicine on this subject, and Goris appeals to surgeons everywhere, who have performed this operation to assist him with their experience in getting up statistics of the immediate and ultimate results, to establish the indications for thyrotomy, especially in respect to benign or malignant tumors and laryngeal tuberculosis. He begs to know the age and sex of the patients, nature of the affection and its exact localization, the general condition, details of the thyrotomy, with or without tracheotomy and the immediate and remote results, with a few observations. Address Dr. Goris, 175 rue Royale, Brussels, Belgium.

"Cure" for Drunkenness.—A Jersey City, N. J., druggist claims to have discovered a new cure for drunkenness, and the *New York Herald* devotes a column in a sensational account of the way in which the cure was discovered. Unlike most great discoveries, this one gives away the formula. Here it is: One pound of fleabane; two quarts of powdered cayenne pepper; one quart of alcohol; three quarts of water. Place the fleabane leaves in the water and alcohol and let them stand two or three weeks; then press out and filter through filter paper. The dose varies from a half ounce to four ounces, given three or four times a day until the patient is under the influence of the drug. The alcohol is certainly in a sufficient quantity to "cure" any ordinary case. We hope our readers will not be too emphatic in their guarantee to cure alcoholism with the remedy.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum and Blindness.—According to the forthcoming report of the New York Institution for the Blind, there has been a continued decrease for the last thirteen years, in the number of blind children received at that institution. The report emphasizes that this gain is due to better sanitary and medical supervision, and says: "When this reform was first undertaken, some twelve years ago, a great many cases of blindness were chargeable to our custodial institutions, where the use by the inmates of the roller-towel and common wash-basins did a great deal to propagate eye troubles of every kind. This mistaken method has been done away with, and the good results of that change, improved by periodical medical inspection, have been most marked."

Inefficacy of Yellow Fever Serum.—Dr. A. Matienzo, of Tampico, who accompanied Dr. Baker to Vera Cruz, to test the yellow fever serum prepared by the N. Y. Board of Health, reports in the official *Boletín del Consejo Superior de Salubridad* of Mexico, that the injections produced hyperemia and acceleration of the pulse, but that they did not arrest the disease nor have the least effect on the appearance, the course or the duration of the symptoms of yellow fever. He does not attempt to judge of its action as a preventive, on account of the limited number of cases treated. He adds that the reaction to the injections of toxin in convalescents from yellow fever, is equal or superior to the reaction induced in non-immunized persons, which confirms Sanarelli's assertion that the curative power of the serum is not due the antitoxic substances, and seems to confirm by its analogy with typhus serum, the suggestions of certain bacteriologists that the bacillus *icteroides* is a bacillus resembling Eberth's bacillus.

Congress on Tuberculosis and Its Modern Treatment.—The Medicolegal Society, New York City, will devote an extraordinary session to "Studies on Tuberculosis, Its Management and Modern Treatment," Feb. 21 and 22, 1900. The leading American scientists and specialists will be asked to contribute papers, and unite in the discussion of the subject. The following questions have been decided on for discussion: 1. Special hospitals and sanitariums, their construction and operation. 2. What are the most successful methods of treatment? 3. Individualization of certain forms of tuberculosis, its importance and necessity. 4. Is change of climate a necessity for successful treatment? 5. Should the use of antitoxins in tuberculosis be condemned from a purely scientific point of view? The profession is desired to co-operate by contributing papers and taking part in the discussion, and to advise either member of the committee as early as possible. Thomas Bassett Keyes, 9S State Street, Chicago; J. Mount Bleyer, 460 Madison Avenue, New York City; Clark Bell, 39 Broadway, New York City.

Regulation of Vivisection.—Senator Gallinger, on the 6th inst., introduced in the Senate the bill prepared by the Washington Humane Society to regulate vivisection in the District of Columbia. It is known as "Senate Bill, No. 34," and its principal provisions, which appear very fairly at first glances, are as follows:

1. A vertebrate animal on which an experiment calculated to give pain is to be performed must be placed wholly under the influence of ether or chloroform; except that in inoculation experiments or tests of drugs the animal need not be anesthetized; nor in surgical experiments need animals be kept anesthetized during recovery.

2. No such experiments may be performed in public schools.

3. All experiments upon living animals may be performed only in registered places and by persons properly licensed.

4. Inspectors are to be appointed by the President of the United States to visit places where experimentation is carried and to make reports directly to him.

5. Reports of the experiments made, the number of animals used, the methods employed and the results obtained shall be made to the Government whenever asked for, from time to time.

A Comment.—Under the term "repeaters," the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION describes what it terms a "reprehensible habit" of some contributors to medical literature of reading the same paper in succession before a large number of societies. To this we would add a large number of writers who send copies of their papers simultaneously to a number of different journals. This habit is not objectionable, providing the papers are accompanied by the statement that they have been furnished to other journals, and there is an understanding that they are, or may be, published elsewhere. At the last meeting of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association a paper was read which has already appeared in five journals—in all of them under the heading: "Original Communications."—*Med. Review*, St. Louis, Mo., December 2.

Queries and Minor Notes.

INFORMATION WANTED: ANSWER.

ROGERS PARK, CHICAGO, NOV. 25, 1899.

To the Editor:—In reply to a query of H. S. W. (see JOURNAL, November 25, p. 1376), I would suggest the following as being likely to be of value to the inquirer: 1. *Journal of Applied Microscopy*, Rochester, N. Y., \$1 a year. 2. *Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology*, etc., published by Young J. Pentland, Edinburgh and London, at £1. 1s. 3. Possibly the *Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society* (through a Fellowship), London. 4. "Transactions of the American Microscopical Society" (as a member or buying) \$3 a year. Yours truly, X.

The Public Service.

BRITISH ARMY MEDICAL ORGANIZATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A medical officer of high rank has recently given to the London press an outline of the medical arrangements for the care of the sick and wounded of the army corps now operating against the Boers in South Africa. The following abstract of his paper will no doubt be of interest to many readers who have "seen service" on this side of the Atlantic.

FIRST AID ON THE FIELD.

A British army corps consists of upward of 36,000 officers and men, of whom 34,000 are fighting men, while the others are connected with the subsistence, quartermaster's, signal and other staff

corps. It consists of twenty-five battalions of infantry, each in round numbers 1,000 strong, with cavalry and artillery varying according to the requirements of the business in hand. In South Africa there is or will be seven regiments of cavalry, four batteries of horse artillery, fifteen batteries of field artillery, in all about 84 guns, and four companies of engineers with pontoon trains. These units are organized into brigades and divisions. A cavalry brigade consists of three regiments and a battery of horse artillery, and an infantry brigade consists of four battalions. Each division comprises two brigades, and the infantry division has attached to it three field batteries and a company of engineers. The units not accounted for are called "corps troops." Each regiment, battalion, artillery division and company of engineers has attached to it a medical officer, who accompanies it into action with his orderly to give first aid to the wounded, while the regimental stretcher-bearers are ready to carry the first cases to the dressing-stations or field-hospitals. There are thus about forty-five surgeons on the field with the army corps.

BEARER COMPANIES.

To each brigade is attached one company consisting of 3 officers, 1 sergeant-major, 12 sergeants and corporals, 1 bugler and 44 privates of the R. A. M. C.—the Royal Army Medical Corps—with 38 men of the army service corps for transport duties. These bring the wounded to a collecting station where the ambulances of the "first line" are ready to carry them to the dressing station. This is organized at some building out of the line of fire, or if no building is available the operating tent is pitched. The major of the bearer company, with one other medical officer, four non-commissioned officers and four privates, one of whom is a cook, are on duty here to examine and dress wounds, administer medical comforts, and place the wounded in ambulances to be carried to the field-hospital.

FIELD-HOSPITALS.

There are twelve of these attached to the corps, each equipped for 100 beds, but so organized that sections of 25 beds can be unpacked and used separately. The personnel of each is 4 medical officers, 1 quartermaster, 1 sergeant-major, 11 sergeants and corporals and 23 privates of the R. A. M. C. with a sergeant and 19 privates of the army service corps. As these hospitals have to march with the troops, the wounded are sent as soon as possible to a post on the "lines of communication."

STATIONARY HOSPITALS.

For those unable to bear the fatigue of a long journey to the base of supplies, there will be resting-places or "stationary hospitals" along the line of rail. Each of these is equipped for 100 patients in two sections of 50 beds each. Four of these hospitals have been sent to South Africa. The personnel is similar to that of the field hospital, but without the army service men. Buildings are used when available, otherwise tents to form a camp may be forwarded from the base.

BASE HOSPITALS.

Each general hospital at the base has accommodations for 20 officers and 500 enlisted men. Four of these were mobilized with the army corps now in Africa and one is organized at Wynberg, near Cape Town. Suitable buildings are selected. The staff of each consists of a colonel and 7 officers, including a quartermaster, with 11 civilian surgeons, a woman superintendent and 8 nursing sisters, 2 warrant officers, 26 sergeants and corporals and 115 privates of the R. A. M. C.

DEPOT OF STORES.

These, for the supply of medicines, dressings and medical comforts, such as wine, spirits, beef essences, etc., are established at the base; and "advanced depots" are thrown forward to positions where the field-hospitals and bearer companies can draw on them.

HOSPITAL TRAINS.

The simplest form is obtained by stringing army stretchers by ropes from the roof of a baggage car. An improvement has been made by having Aldershot pattern frames to fit into the cars; several of these have been sent out to Africa. Two systematically equipped trains have been fitted out by the local authorities in Natal, with wards, stores, kitchen, dispensary and quarters for the medical staff. A special hospital train, "The Princess Christian's train," is now nearing completion in Birmingham, to be sent out as soon as possible. Sir John Furley has supervised its construction.

HOSPITAL SHIPS.

Only light-draft vessels can cross the bar at Durban. Two such, the *Spartan* and *Trojan*, have been fitted up, as previously noted in the JOURNAL, and one is already on duty between Durban and Cape Town. Each has accommodations for 67 patients and 64 convalescents. The staff of each consists of an army medical officer, 2 civilian surgeons, 3 nursing sisters, 5 non-commissioned officers and 11 privates, R. A. M. C.

For transportation to England two steamers have been prepared. One, the *Midnight Sun*, newly christened the *Princess of Wales*, has been prepared for service by the Armstrong Company at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The staff will consist of 2 army medical officers, 2 civilian surgeons, 3 nursing sisters, 7 non-commissioned officers, 10 privates R. A. M. C., with 3 ambulance officers and 20 orderlies of the St. John's Ambulance Association. The other hospital ship, the *Maine*, has been chartered and is being fitted out as previously noted in the JOURNAL. The senior medical officer is to be Surgeon Lieut-Col. F. H. Hensman, late First Life Guards, but the other members of the medical staff, including surgeons, lady nurses and orderlies will be from the United States.

SANITATION.

All possible precautions will be taken to guard against an epidemic of typhoid fever. Filters have been provided, and it will be part of the duty of regimental medical officers to look after their efficiency; but whenever possible drinking water will be boiled, as it is now recognized that boiling is more efficient than any filter. Each regimental officer is the sanitary officer of his camp. He has been fitted for the position by his training at the Army Medical School at Netley. The principal medical officer on the staff of General Buller, commanding the forces, is Surgeon-General Nilsson, who has with him an expert in bacteriologic and chemical investigations.

ROENTGEN RAY APPARATUS.

Ten sets have been sent out for general hospital and field use; in addition to these the *Princess of Wales* and *Maine* will each be provided with the latest and most approved patterns.

GENEVA CONVENTION.

The South African Republic accepted the terms of the Convention in January, 1897. Telegrams have been received announcing that the Boers have fired on the Red Cross flag. It will, however, prob-