

of the department of public welfare, states that 650 persons were admitted to the alcoholic wards during the nine months preceding April 1, while during the corresponding period of 1919-1920 only 299 cases of this kind were admitted. The report also states that the cases have become more acute in character.

Recommendations Adopted by Medical Society of the County of New York.—At its stated meeting, held April 25, the Medical Society of the County of New York adopted a recommendation of its *Comitia Minora* urging that the profession withdraw its support of commercial laboratories, and that wherever possible patients be referred to laboratories under the supervision of competent and qualified medical men. The *Comitia Minora*, sitting as a reference committee on the resolutions offered at the March meeting of the society, proposing a comprehensive survey of medical practice, the establishment of a weekly news organ, and recommending the appointment of an executive secretary in common for the state and county societies, recommended that no action be taken on these resolutions for the following reasons: (1) To undertake a survey of medical practice as outlined in the resolutions would require an appropriation beyond the means of the society; (2) the matter of a new organ was now pending before the Committee on Civic Policy; (3) the office of executive secretary for the state society was created by the last House of Delegates; (4) the income of the county society does not warrant such increased expenditure.—Resolutions were introduced recommending that resolutions be introduced into the state society instructing delegates to the coming meeting of the American Medical Association to oppose all resolutions that might be introduced into that body favoring health centers.—Another resolution, introduced by Dr. John P. Davin, was to the effect that, whereas, the proposed amendment to the Volstead act would prevent the manufacture of alcohol and would nullify the right of the physician to prescribe alcohol, and whereas this bill had been presented without any scientific data to show reason why such action should be taken, Congress be urged to delay action until the medical profession had had the opportunity to pass upon this measure, at the coming meeting of the American Medical Association.

GENERAL

"Dr." Hugh Russell Not a Physician.—For the information of those following the testimony in the Stillman case, it should be known that "Dr." Hugh Russell of Buffalo, who, it is reported, divulged a confidential professional statement, is not a physician but is listed as an osteopath and chiropractor.

General Sawyer Opens Offices.—Brig.-Gen. Charles E. Sawyer, personal physician to President Harding, has been assigned three rooms on the first floor, northeast corner of the State, War and Navy Building. The offices are located in Room 244, and were formerly occupied by General Sheridan, General Schofield and General Miles as headquarters of the Army. From these quarters General Sawyer will direct his activities for the establishment of a department of public health and for the arrangement of better hospital facilities for disabled soldiers and sailors.

Volstead Presents Supplementary Measure.—A supplementary measure to the National Prohibition Act forbidding the sale of beer upon a physician's prescription has been presented to the House of Representatives by Congressman Volstead, chairman of the House Committee of the Judiciary. The proposed bill is directed to annul the recent ruling of Former Attorney-General Palmer allowing the sale of beer in the limited quantity of one bottle per day for medicinal purposes. It does not interfere with the prescribing of wines by doctors having obtained the necessary license. The measure also gives the Prohibition Commissioner the authority to revoke and cancel licenses granted physicians who violate the law in prescribing liquor. A suspension of the license is also provided and the holder of the permit is given thirty days notice to show cause why the permit should not be canceled. This machinery of law is placed under the authority of the Attorney-General.

Proposed Amendment to Sheppard Bill.—The equipment and operation of hospitals in all the counties of the United States for the care of maternity cases and the treatment of children is provided in an amendment to the Sheppard bill for the protection of maternity and infancy introduced in the Senate by Senator Moses. Instead of proposed cooperation between the federal and state governments the Moses amendment limits the cooperation to the federal and county governments stipulating that the federal government shall appropriate

\$5,000 for equipping a county hospital, if an equal amount is furnished by any county and that an additional \$5,000 for maintenance every year shall be furnished by the federal government provided the amount is duplicated by the county. Preference shall be given to the care of maternity cases and the treatment of children in these hospitals and a course in elementary nursing covering a year's training shall be conducted. The operation of the proposed act shall be carried out by the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Public Health Service.

Medical Veterans of the World War.—There will be a meeting of the Association of the "Medical Veterans of the World War" on the day preceding the meeting of the scientific sections of the American Medical Association, the time and place to be announced later. Col. V. C. Vaughan is president of this association and Col. F. F. Russell, secretary. All medical officers, contract surgeons of the U. S. Army, and acting assistant surgeons in the U. S. Public Health Service, who have served in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army, U. S. Navy and U. S. Public Health Service, and all medical members of local boards, members of medical advisory, and district boards, officially appointed by the President of the United States, the Provost Marshal General of the U. S. Army and the governors of the various states are eligible to membership in this organization. The object of this association "is to perpetuate fellowship, to prepare history, secure cooperation for the mutual benefit of the medical men who served in the World War, 1914-1918, and for the mutual improvement and social intercourse of its members."

Philippine Death Rate.—According to the advance report of the Philippines Bureau of Health, for the year 1920, a great improvement in sanitary conditions at Manila was apparent during that year. The death rate was lower than in the four preceding years, being only 26.6 per thousand to an average of 30.27 during the four previous years. The infant death rate also showed a great decrease, being 164.76 against an average in previous years of 326.30 per thousand births. There were only five cases and four deaths from smallpox at Manila, but in the provinces there were several thousand cases and deaths but not so many as in previous years. There were twenty-four cases and three deaths from cholera at Manila, but both at Manila and the provinces the death rate was lower than in the two previous years. Dysentery continues to prevail in the provinces although almost absent from Manila. On the other hand, typhoid fever showed an increase at Manila and a decrease in the provinces. There were also more cases of rabies and some of beriberi. Tuberculosis and malaria continue to be the diseases that cause most deaths in the Philippines.

FOREIGN

Officers of Portuguese Association.—At a general meeting held by the Association of Portuguese Physicians the following officers were elected: A. Neves, president; Anacleto de Oliveira, vice president; Lobato do Carmo and F. Martins Pereira, secretaries.

Government Services

Open Nurses' Training Schools

Due to the increasing demand for nurses in the government hospitals the U. S. Public Health Service has opened two training schools for nurses in its hospitals. One will be inaugurated at Fox Hills, Staten Island, because of its nearness to New York and the other will be located at Fort McHenry near Baltimore. Plans are under consideration for the opening of other nurses' schools as conditions permit in such other hospitals as may be fitted for the work.

Orders Clinic at Army Hospitals

Surg.-Gen. Merritte W. Ireland has given instructions that wherever material is available a clinic be held once a week in army hospitals and attended by all medical officers. All interesting cases are to be presented, examined and discussed. Demonstrations are also to be given in operating-room technique, new procedures in laboratory methods and in roentgen-ray laboratories. In all those cases terminating in death the officers are to be assembled for discussion of the pathologic report and the clinical findings. Conferences frequently on sanitation and communicable diseases are ordered in all the army hospitals.