

minor researches were to be made for officials and private persons, for which a definite fee was chargeable. Furthermore, it was to furnish central authorities with information and issue certificates or testimonials in the interest of public welfare.

The present director of the institute, Geheimrat Beninde, member of the Prussian ministry of public welfare, has recently issued a statement in which he recommends that the activities of the institute be extended so as to include researches on problems pertaining to air hygiene. Not only the water supplies but also the air is being greatly contaminated by the enormous development of modern industry, and this contamination is exerting an effect on plant and animal life, and more particularly, on the hygienic conditions under which mankind lives. He points out that contamination of the air through industrial plants and the various mechanisms of modern life may be classified under two main heads; through (1) gas, and (2) dust. In the air are found more or less large quantities of carbon dioxide gas, which results from putrefaction and fermentation processes, and carbon monoxide from imperfect combustion of fuels, being found in considerable quantities mixed with the gases of blast furnaces and the smoke from chimneys. Chlorine is found in the air in the vicinity of certain factories; likewise hydrochloric acid, sulphurous acid, sulphuric acid, hydrogen sulphide, volatile fatty acids and other foul smelling gases develop under various fermentative processes. Various forms of air dust have also developed with the increase of industry and traffic. Most prominent are smoke and soot, the products of incomplete combustion of coal. The relation of air contamination to disturbances in the human organism is a well known chapter in pathology, more particularly the part played by air contamination in the causation of occupational diseases. In view of the facts, the Prussian government has already approved Director Beninde's plan and has taken the necessary action to put the Landesanstalt für Wasserhygiene in a position to undertake researches in the domain of air hygiene.

#### Excess of Male Births

In a previous letter I referred to the question of an excess of boy babies, and recently Dr. Hartmann brought up the subject again, citing statistics in proof of his opinions. In the period from 1915 to 1920, it appears from the records that the excess of boy births materially increased; for example, in Prussia, the excess of boy babies over girl babies was 7.2 per cent., as compared with an excess of 6.2 per cent. for the period 1910 to 1915. In 1919, the excess amounted to 8.6 per cent. In Saxony, the excess amounted in 1917 to 8.2 per cent., and in 1919 to 9.2 per cent. In Bavaria, the excess for 1918 was 8.8 per cent.; for 1919, 8.5 per cent., as compared with an excess of 6.2 per cent. for the period 1910 to 1917.

#### Statistics on Prostitution

The Munich physician Dr. Marcuse gave here recently a report on the nature and spread of clandestine prostitution in Munich. Of 832 clandestine prostitutes who were rounded up by the police in Munich, 438 were affected with venereal disease, 271 of them for the first time. Of these 832 girls, 333 had been brought up in the city, while 467 were from rural sections (which leaves thirty-two unaccounted for). Of the 832 delinquents, 607 declared that they had no regular means of livelihood; 130 belonged to the 25-30 age group, 260 to the 20-25 group, 256 to the 15-20 group, while five were under 15 years of age. Alcoholism in the family history was noted in 195 cases, insanity in fifty-one cases, and epilepsy in twenty cases. In the case of fifteen, the ancestors had suffered from nervous diseases, while, in sixty-one cases, both parents of the girls had been affected by some predisposing malady.

## Marriages

JAMES ALEXANDER WADDELL, University, Va., to Miss Mary C. Graves of Somerset, Va., June 27.

ARTHUR C. KNIGHT, Philipsburg, Mont., to Miss Karen Hansen of Wilbur, Wash., June 29.

JOHN JULIAN CONNELLY, Rockville, Ind., to Miss Harriet Hubbard of Indianapolis, recently.

AUSTIN INGRAM DODSON, Richmond, Va., to Miss Louise Barham of Emporia, Va., June 6.

JOHN KIRK RICHARDSON to Miss Irene Trotter Geisinger, both of Richmond, Va., June 12.

CARLISLE CALAHAN COCHRAN, Huntersville, N. C., to Miss Adelia John Everette, June 6.

WALTER McBETH, Royal Center, Ind., to Miss Julia Faye Frye of Adams, Ind., June 28.

PARKS M. KING, Charlotte, N. C., to Miss Anna Howerton of Lexington, Va., June 27.

ROBERT H. BELL to Miss Minnie E. Dilks, both of Carlinville, Ill., June 6.

## Deaths

**Frank Lester Morrow**, Braddock, Pa.; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, 1913; member of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania; aged 33; was instantly killed, July 5, when the automobile in which he was driving a patient to the hospital was struck by a Baltimore and Ohio express train.

**Laughlin O'Neal Malsbury**, Peru, Ind.; Kentucky School of Medicine, Louisville, 1891; member of the Indiana State Medical Association; formerly secretary of the Miami County Board of Health; at one time a member of the city council; died, July 5, in Chicago, aged 54, from toxicemia caused by ischio-rectal abscess.

**Charlotte Steckel Farrington**, Philadelphia; Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1901; member of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society; died, July 12, at the Presbyterian Hospital, aged 52, from heart disease.

**Robert Rice**, Haverhill, Mass.; Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital of Philadelphia, 1908; member of the Massachusetts Medical Society; on the staff of the General Stephen Henry Gale Hospital, where he died, July 9, aged 50, following a long illness.

**Clayton W. Russell**, Springfield, Ohio; Eclectic Medical Institute, Cincinnati, 1890; member of the Ohio State Medical Association; formerly president of the Ohio Eclectic Medical Association; died, July 13, aged 56, from heart disease.

**James Eddy Blake** ☉ Whitestone, N. Y.; Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, 1898; University of Bonn, Germany, 1902; also a member of the New Hampshire Medical Society; died, July 18, aged 49.

**Lauriston M. Berry**, Guernsey, Wyo.; University of Vermont College of Medicine, Burlington, Vt., 1869; member of the Wyoming State Medical Society and the Massachusetts Medical Society; died, July 6, aged 80.

**George W. Metzger**, Hughesville, Pa.; University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, 1866; member of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania; Civil War veteran; died, July 7, aged 81.

**Edward Ashby Waugh**, Lynchburg, Va.; University of Virginia, Department of Medicine, Charlottesville, Va., 1883; member of the Medical Society of Virginia; died, July 9, aged 69, from angina pectoris.

**Albert Henry King**, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, 1901; member of the Florida Medical Association; died, June 30, at Asheville, N. C., aged 45.

☉ Indicates "Fellow" of the American Medical Association.