

"The church was hung with black; imitations of the tombs of lepers formerly expelled from society were put up; and there, before the public who were present, though keeping at a distance, the leper, conducted by the keeper of the leper house, escorted by his relations and friends and placed in front of the choir, heard the mass for the dead said for him. After this, stretched on a litter of ropes, he was covered with a shroud and carried to the cemetery, where a yawning grave had been dug for him. The priest threw earth on the head of the leper, after which he was taken to the leper house and admitted there in due form.

"In towns where there was no large leper house the ritual was not so solemn. The leper was taken to his hut and then exhorted to live virtuously. The following written instructions were left with him:—

"As long as you are ill, you will go into no house but your hut. You will not sleep out, you will not go into a mill, you will not look into a fountain or a well, and you will eat only by yourself. You will go into no dwelling, you will not go into a church. When you speak to a person you will place yourself to leeward of him. You will sound your rattle when you ask for alms. You will not wander far from your dwelling unless you are clad in your leper's blouse which will be of uncolored coarse stuff, in order that you may be recognized. You will drink at no stream, but only at your own barrel with your dish. You will not get water at other wells or fountain than your own. You will not touch the rope of a well without gloves. You will not touch anything which you are buying until it is yours. You will wear your gloves and will touch nothing with the bare hand. You will not walk outside nor sleep at night outside your dwelling without the leave of your parish priest and of the official. You will not have connexion with any women other than your own wife. You will not touch children nor give them anything. I forbid you to eat and drink in company except with lepers."

"Then the priest blessed the furniture and the utensils of the leper,—barrel, funnel, dish, bed-clothes, basin, pot. In front of the hut he planted a wooden cross with a box to receive the alms of the passers-by. The priest put in his own offering first, and the people followed his example. The leper henceforth was an outcast from the world. He was civilly dead; he could neither make a contract, nor inherit, nor make a will. He could contract marriage only with a woman who was willing to marry him knowing him to be what he was. Lepers had the beard and the hair of the head shaved, and carried on the shoulder a red badge, a goose's foot or a hand. Some cultivated the garden of the leper house. Others went begging for the community. They nursed each other. Those who had means took a servant, who according to the regulations had to be of such an age that there was no chance of her conceiving."

ASSISTANT SURGEON.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

Board of commissioned medical officers will be convened to meet at the Bureau of Public Health Service, 3 B Street, S.E., Washington, D. C., and at the Marine Hospitals of Boston, Mass.; Stapleton, N. Y.; Chicago, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; New Orleans, La., and San Francisco, Cal., on Monday, October 19, 1914, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of examining candidates for admission to the grade of assistant surgeon in the Public Health Service, when applications for examination at these stations are received in the Bureau.

Candidates must be between 23 and 32 years of age, graduates of a reputable medical college, and must furnish testimonials from two responsible persons as to their professional and moral character. Service in hospitals for the insane or experience in the detection of mental disease will be considered and credit given in the examination. Candidates must have had one year's hospital experience or two years' professional work.

In addition to the physical examination, candidates are required to certify that they believe themselves free from any ailment which would disqualify them for service in any climate and that they will serve wherever assigned to duty. The examinations are chiefly in writing, and begin with a short autobiography of the candidate. The remainder of the written exercise consists of examination in the various branches of medicine, surgery, and hygiene.

The oral examination includes subjects of preliminary education, history, literature, and natural sciences. The clinical examination is conducted at a hospital. The examination usually covers a period of about ten days.

Successful candidates will be numbered according to their attainments on examination, and will be commissioned in the same order. They will receive early appointments. After four years' service, assistant surgeons are entitled to examination for promotion to the grade of passed assistant surgeon.

For invitation to appear before the board of examiners, address "Surgeon General, Public Health Service, Washington, D. C."

RECENT DEATHS.

DR. JAMES HENRY SANDERSON, of Worcester, died in that city from pneumonia, August 28, aged 47 years. He was a graduate of Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1890, and was an interne in Bellevue Hospital in New York. He is survived by a brother and a sister.

DR. DUDLEY LEAVITT, of West Stockbridge, Mass., who died in Pittsfield, Mass., on Aug. 23, was born at West Stockbridge in 1864, the only son of Dr. William W. Leavitt, of Pittsfield, a retired Fellow of The Massachusetts Medical Society and for many years a practising physician in Pittsfield. He was a graduate of Yale, and in 1890 received the degree of M.D. from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. He is survived by his widow, a son, and a daughter.

APPOINTMENTS.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—*Dr. Virgil H. Moon*, of the Memorial Institute for Infectious Diseases, Chicago, has been appointed head of the pathology department.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.—*Dr. H. T. Summersgill*, superintendent of the New Haven (Conn.) Hospital, has been appointed superintendent of the University Hospital in San Francisco.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Manual of the Diseases of the Eye, by Charles H. May, M.D. William Wood & Co. 1914.

Collected Papers from The Research Laboratory. Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, Mich. Reprints. Volume 2, 1914.