

fection of any given community is largely augmented by importations from vessels touching such places, and it will be a step in the eradication of venereal infection when these sources are put under control.

The plea that the teaching of prophylactic measures is an incentive to immorality is too theoretical and problematic to deserve more than passing attention, in the face of the suffering and injury as well as mortality induced by these very preventable diseases. If only those infected through immorality were concerned in this question one might almost be tempted to let them take their "medicine"—though such a point of view is unworthy of progressive thinking—but in fact it is the innocent who suffer most, either by infection directly, or indirectly, or through heredity. Venereal disease when once established has a tendency toward permanence, whereas immorality is a variable factor, changing with the composition of the particular social community and with its code of morals. No case of ophthalmia neonatorum or congenital syphilis has ever been reported as the result purely of a breach of the moral code.

A NEW FIELD FOR AMERICAN MEDICAL WRITERS.

It is given to some men to express their opinions in fluent English and among our profession those fortunate ones are found most often in the pages of the medical periodicals. The works of American medical writers, with a few notable exceptions, have not been found much in the columns of our English contemporaries, and there are several reasons for this.

One is, that the natural tendency of the writer is to publish his work in his own country where his audience will probably be more sympathetic. Another is, that the editors of journals in foreign countries, such as England, prefer to use the works of their compatriots. Then might be added the extra time and expense involved in correspondence across the ocean.

The present European conflict, however, gives rise to a different situation. In England a great many of the doctors are at the front, those who are left are harder worked than usual and so there is little time for literary labors. On this account some of the English journals have suspended publication temporarily while others are obviously suffering for want of material.

It is in the power of American medical men

to relieve this situation somewhat, if they will. Let them send some of their papers to English journals for a time at least and it is probable that they will be warmly welcomed. It may be also the means of bringing about professional intimacies between the physicians on the other side of the Atlantic and this, to their mutual advantage.

MORE COSMETIC SURGERY.

APART from his function in the relief of physical suffering, the surgeon is often called to ease another kind, a more refined but none the less acute form, the psychic suffering attendant upon deformity or disfigurement. The domain of plastic surgery is large and increasing; and although furnishing entertainment to the comic writers and sneeringly referred to by some colleagues as "beauty doctors" the practitioners of this art perform a very real service to the community.

In the *Annals of Surgery* for May, 1915, Dr. Leonard Freeman adds to the resources of the surgeon interested in this specialty by a valuable contribution. He has devised a treatment for so-called "false keloid" which now and then appears sometime afterward to mar an otherwise successful operation. He thinks that this blemish is due to tension on the scar, causing a hypertrophy of the cicatricial tissue. Tubercular patients appear to be particularly predisposed, so that it is found as an aftermath to excision of tubercular cervical glands, in which location it is a great disfigurement, especially in women.

Dr. Freeman treats this condition by the free transplantation of fascia from some other part of the body, which he sutures to the superficial fascia on one side of the wound and to the deeper tissues on the other. He describes two cases where he removed these growths and transplanted the fascia with gratifying results. The method, he says, is of no value in true keloid.

DRUG REGISTRATION.

PHYSICIANS are reminded that their drug registration under the provisions of the Harrison law must be renewed on or before July 1, 1915, for the ensuing year. This may be done upon payment of \$1.00 at the office of the local collector of internal revenue. For the convenience of physicians, the same registration number previously held will, upon request, be re-issued to each physician.