

NOTES FROM DISTRICT SOCIETIES.

WORCESTER DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At the regular Clinical Meeting of the Staff of Memorial Hospital held November 25, 1921, Dr. Charles E. Ayres reported a case of a child seven years old with tuberculosis of the seventh cervical vertebra. There was destruction of the vertebra and collapse of the cord, causing paralysis of both upper and lower limbs. The case had been treated on the Bradford frame, which relieved the paralysis, and later with the Albee operation. The patient was shown wearing supporting collar with the use of arms and legs.

Dr. Charles A. Sparrow showed x-ray pictures and electrocardiograms of a case of pericarditis with effusion. The case gave a history of tonsillitis with chorea and endocarditis. Improvement followed treatment and the patient is now comfortable.

Dr. George A. Dix reported a case of sporotrichosis contracted by the patient while working on a cattle ship during the war. Diagnosis was made by culture. The patient is now better and continues to improve while under treatment with potassium iodide.

Dr. Lester C. Miller reported a case of Addison's disease with apparent cure. The patient was a young white woman with an intense bronzing of the skin. The case was probably not tubercular but due to some sort of infection. An exhaustive report of the history was given with a résumé of the literature on the subject. The case was treated with potassium iodide and adrenal gland.

Correspondence.

THE MASSACHUSETTS CIVIC LEAGUE vs. THE MASSACHUSETTS CIVIC ALLIANCE.

To the Editor of the BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL,

Sir:—

Is it possible that when you give such an amount of space to the lucubrations of the Massachusetts Civic Alliance you confuse it, as so many do, with the Massachusetts Civic League, with which it has no affiliation whatever?

Numerous organizations, including two chambers of commerce, have since 1916 attempted to learn something of the Alliance, but thus far with very moderate success.

Its headquarters seem to consist of a desk in an office with several other organizations. No investigator has found any one at the desk, the occupants of other desks in the same room have been uncommunicative, there seems to be no telephone connection either here or at the home of its secretary, and searchers for information have been completely baffled.

The Massachusetts Civic League, whatever opinion it might hold, would never have written to the President of the United States the impudent letter which appears on page 637 of the November 24 issue, and it is to emphasize that fact that I feel impelled to write to you today.

SAMUEL B. WOODWARD.

AN EARLY SYSTEM OF VENTILATION

November 18, 1921.

Mr. Editor:—

There is nothing new under the sun, although conditions may change. As long ago as 1886, my father-in-law, Benjamin Meriam, got out a patent on a system of ventilation patterned on the principle of the monitor roof, referred to in the article by Dr. Griffin, appearing in your November 10 issue. It was a successful operation in school and library buildings of the city and is doing good service in the house built and formerly occupied by the writer, in West Roxbury. All that was done was at his own expense, however, and owing to circumstances it could go no farther.

The system is simple and economical and is applicable to any type of building, only requiring a moderate amount of heat to direct the current toward the outlet, through which there can be no down draft.

The working plans can be seen by appointment if so desired.

Yours truly,
C. W. SPARHAWK, M.D., Middleton, Mass.

PROFITEERING IN ALCOHOL.

November 16, 1921.

Mr. Editor:—

In regard to profiteering of physicians and surgeons prescribing alcoholic liquors: physicians receive 400 prescription blanks per year; if he is entirely mercenary he may receive in return the maximum amount of \$800. Considering the amount of bookkeeping, etc., he expends a like amount in time and energy in reporting same.

In regard to emergency prescriptions he must explain in person before revenue board or person representing same, the reason for an emergency prescription.

Above is an explanation as to the impossibility of physicians or surgeons having any monetary consideration.

Fraternally,
JAMES F. QUEST, M.D., Boston, Mass.

NOTICES.

BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL.—Staff Clinical Meeting, Cheever Surgical Amphitheatre, Friday, December 9, 1921, at 8 o'clock P.M.

Topics: Some of the More Common Tropical Diseases Seen in Boston and Vicinity. (35 minutes.) Richard P. Strong, M.D. Observations on Tropical Diseases at the Boston City Hospital Covering a Period of Six Months. (35 minutes.) George C. Shattuck, M.D. Open Discussion.

Physicians and medical students invited.

H. ARCHIBALD NISSEN, M.D.,
HALSEY B. LODER, M.D., *Committee.*

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL RESEARCH CLUB.—The meeting of the Research Club to be held at the Harvard Medical School, Amphitheatre in Building A, at 12.30 o'clock on Friday, December 9, will be addressed by:

Dr. Chester M. Jones: "Bile Pigment Studies."

Dr. James H. Means: "Metabolism Curves in Various Types of Myxedema. Effect of Thyroid Feeding on Metabolism."

Dr. Paul D. White: "Electrocardiograms in Myxedema."

Dr. George R. Minot: "The Anemia of Myxedema. Relation of Polycythemia to Leukemia."

Dr. Francis R. Rackemann: "The Mechanism of Hay Fever."

Each of the above talks will be of ten minutes duration.

A CLINICAL MEETING with demonstrations will be held in the Amphitheatre of the Children's Hospital on Friday, December 9 at 4.30 P.M.