

fight against these evils. Unfortunately, it is a long step between resolving that a thing should be done, and doing it. However, the resolve must precede the deed, and the resolve we now have as a guide to legislation upon these questions, and to the duties of health departments the conclusions of the Conference should be very helpful. They will strengthen the hand of every one of us in dealing with the problems incidental to venereal disease.

### AN ILLOGICAL TREATMENT OF PROSTATIC TROUBLES.

A CERTAIN doctor in Marblehead claims that by his method 99 per cent. of his patients get relief from prostatic troubles. His charge is fifteen dollars, with the assurance that if he fails to relieve, the money will be refunded. He cheerfully assures the patients that operations are unnecessary. The method consists in the employment of hydraulic pressure brought about by constricting the urethra during the passage of urine, until the distention resulting from the retained fluid stretches the insufficient outlet of the bladder, thus forcing the gland back.

In support of his claim, he reports having offered the idea to Rear-Admiral Cary T. Grayson, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy, for use in President Wilson's case, and claims that the employment of this method brought relief to President Wilson. Quotation from Dr. Grayson's letter seems to show that the claim is not true: "I am in receipt of your letter of August 30th, 1921, in which you make inquiry regarding a recent advertisement in the JOURNAL, in which I am quoted. I deny the authorship of such a statement. I have no knowledge of ever having written to Dr. M. V. B. Morse, and there is no record in my files. In fact, I am positive that any quotation from me relative to treatment is absolutely false."\*

One of the victims was made very much worse by this treatment, as was to be expected, and upon applying to the doctor for the refund, it was, according to the custom of such pretenders, refused.

In one of his letters, this doctor with the marvellous cure, speaking of President Wilson's case, says, "He is still living. I doubt very much if he would be if it had not been for me."

When we consider that about one out of twelve males of advanced age are candidates for prostatic troubles, physicians should warn all men under their care of the necessity of securing reliable advice when suggestive symptoms are in evidence.

\* Rear-Admiral Grayson misinterpreted the question submitted, so far as the advertisement is concerned, for the advertising material was in the form of circulars and letters.

### NEWS ITEMS.

THE fifty-second meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Assistant Physicians was held at the Worcester State Hospital, Worcester, Mass., December 7, 1921. Fifty-five were present. At Dr. William Bryan's request, the wives of members were present. While the meeting was in progress the ladies were entertained by the hostess, Mrs. C. A. Bonner. The visitors were shown through the Hospital, and luncheon was served at 1 P.M. The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. R. M. Chambers. A very interesting program was presented by the Staff of the Worcester State Hospital, as follows: "Origin and Scope of the Modern State Hospital," by the Assistant Superintendent, Dr. C. A. Bonner. This was followed by "Involution Melancholia," by Dr. G. A. Gaunt. Discussions by Drs. Bryan, Duvol, Bunker, Plant, and Chambers. A class in calisthenics was then conducted before the members, clearly demonstrating just what can be done with types of patients hitherto considered totally inaccessible. A tea dansant from 4 to 6 P.M., with music by the Hospital Orchestra, concluded a very enjoyable day.

DURING the week ending December 10, 1921, the number of deaths reported was 188 against 197 last year, with a rate of 12.94. There were 29 deaths under one year of age against 28 last year.

The number of cases of principal reportable diseases were: Diphtheria, 77; scarlet fever, 29; measles, 45; whooping cough, 15; typhoid fever, 2; tuberculosis, 31.

Included in the above were the following cases of non-residents: Diphtheria, 5; scarlet fever, 4; measles, 1; tuberculosis, 2.

Total deaths from these diseases were: Diphtheria, 3; tuberculosis, 7.

Included in the above were the following cases of non-residents: Diphtheria, 1; tuberculosis, 1.

### Obituaries.

#### RESOLUTIONS PASSED ON THE DEATH OF JOHN JOSEPH FLYNN, M.D., BY THE BERKSHIRE DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

DR. JOHN J. FLYNN died in Pittsfield, November 13, 1921, in the sixty-first year of his age, from nephritis.

He was born in Worcester, April 4, 1861. He attended the Worcester Public Schools, and later was a student at Holy Cross College. He graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in 1884. Soon after graduation he commenced the practice of medicine in Palmer and was there for three years. He was married in 1883, and his wife and one daughter survive him. In