

editorial articles, than of other colleges doing as bad or worse work, we may say that it was because the Faculty officially endorsed the establishment of the State Board of Examiners, and afterwards individually opposed the Board before the Legislature; because of the action of the students of that College in petitioning the Legislature of Virginia to exempt its graduates from the State examinations, and their reasons therefor; because the Faculty did not protest against this petition, and because of the statements made to the Legislative Committee by members of the College Faculty. The action of the students was substantially, though unofficially, it is said, endorsed by the members of the Faculty (except Drs. John N. Upshur and Geo. Ben. Johnston). If Dr. Cullen does not remember what the members of the Faculty said before the Legislative Committee, we can refresh his memory by publishing their statements. In regard to the misstatements refuted by Dr. Cullen at Norfolk, we can only say that none have been made in *THE JOURNAL*; and as to the statements that we have made, they have been refuted neither at the Norfolk meeting nor in the letter from Dr. Cullen in this issue.

We noted with pleasure the position taken by Dr. Cullen at the Norfolk meeting of the Medical Society of Virginia in regard to the State Examining Board. Inasmuch as he represents the Faculty of his College, until there is evidence to the contrary we shall accept his action as a promise that the Medical College of Virginia has entered upon an era of better work.

THE DIETETIC USE OF SACCHARIN.

In a recent number of the *Lancet* Drs. THOMAS STEVENSON and L. C. WOOLDRIDGE record some experiments made to determine whether saccharin is poisonous or not when given in excessive quantities; and if it is not poisonous under these or other conditions, whether its use in moderation interferes with the digestive processes, so as to render it advisable to forbid its use as a substitute for sugar. Saccharin is not a food in any sense; but it is recognized that there are many circumstances under which it is necessary to have a sweetening agent to take the place of sugar. As to the non-toxic nature of saccharin the experimenters have no doubt, since their experiments confirm those of reliable investigators on the Con-

tinent. Saccharin has decided antiseptic properties, and in sufficient quantities is capable of stopping the action of organized ferments. As regards its extracorporeal action on the soluble ferments, as regards the peptic digestion of fibrin 0.1 per cent. of saccharin has no retarding influence, while 0.25 per cent. slows the process decidedly, and 1 per cent. greatly retards it: 0.1 per cent. of saccharin is equivalent to 30 per cent. of sugar, which may be said to be a dietetic impossibility. The diastasic solution of starch is not hindered by 2 per cent. of saccharin. The addition of saccharin to urine hinders ammoniacal fermentation—as does ingestion of saccharin.

As regards the intracorporeal action of saccharin, it was found that a gram of the substance, equal to more than eight ounces of sugar, did not interfere in the least with the gastric digestion of the dog. The article used in the experiments was "soluble saccharin," equal to about nine-tenths its weight of pure saccharin. It is as soluble in water as table salt, and when properly diluted is scarcely to be distinguished from cane sugar. Drs. Stevenson and Wooldridge conclude that (1) saccharin is quite innocuous when taken in quantities largely exceeding what would be taken in an ordinary dietary; (2) it does not interfere with nor impede the digestive processes when taken in any practicable quantity; (3) it may be taken during an extended period without interfering with the digestive and other bodily functions. There is, then, no reason to think that its continual use may be in any way harmful.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

AN ARMY MEDICAL BOARD will be in session in New York City, N. Y., from May 1 to 31, 1889, for the examination of candidates for appointment in the Medical Corps of the United States Army, to fill existing vacancies. Persons desiring to present themselves for examination by the Board will make application for the necessary invitation to the Secretary of War, before April 1, 1889, stating the place of birth, place and State of permanent residence, and enclosing certificates based on personal knowledge from at least two persons of repute, as to American citizenship, character and moral habits. Testimonials as to professional standing, from Professors of the Medical College from which the

applicant graduated, and of service in hospital from the authorities thereof, are also desirable. The candidate must be between 21 and 28 years of age, and a graduate from a *Regular Medical College*, evidence of which, his Diploma, must be submitted to the board. Further information regarding the examinations and their nature may be obtained by addressing the Surgeon-General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

ISOLATING "LUMP-JAW" CATTLE.—The Secretary of the State Board of Live Stock Commissioners reports that the Agent of the Board at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, has, since the 15th of October, when he was placed there, isolated 148 cattle diseased with lump-jaw, and all but one of these have been slaughtered by the owners without cost to the State, thus preventing their going into the country to again spread disease. The action of the Yard Company in ordering the carcasses tanked has prevented the placing upon the market of diseased meat, which is likely to convey the disease to human beings. The Stock Yard officials and the commission men generally are co-operating heartily with the State Board in preventing the spread of the disease by absolutely refusing to handle any animal affected with the disease. The Board of Live Stock Commissioners has placed an agent at the National Stock Yards at St. Louis to inspect and isolate diseased cattle.

A NEW URINAL has been invented by a German firm. The long bag, which hitherto was hanging in an uncomfortable manner the whole length of the leg, is done away with, and its place taken by a bag attached to the waist and extending horizontally, the urine being kept at the bottom of the bag and spreading over its entire width, instead of accumulating at one point. Moreover, a pump and sucking apparatus is connected with the urinal for the purpose of making the reservoir air-tight and allowing the urine to flow very quickly by means of a valve into the lower part. The discharge is effected in a comfortable, very clean, noiseless and non-conspicuous manner, the emptying hose being mechanically opened, when the fluid runs away to the last drop.

ABNORMALITY OF THE AORTIC ARCH.—At the meeting of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland on Nov. 7th, Mr. Gordon

Brodie related a case of abnormality of the aortic arch, in which the innominate arteries (?) were absent, being replaced by a short, thick trunk, which gave off two branches ascending on either side of the trachea to the place of the common carotids, that on the right giving off one corresponding to the vertebrae. Next in order from the arch was the left vertebral, which entered the foramen in the transverse process of the fifth cervical, and gave a branch to the thyroid. Another branch arose from the first part of the subclavian on the left side. The right subclavian arose as a fourth branch from the arch, and passed behind the oesophagus and trachea.

THE PROFESSION IN NEW MEXICO.—The Territorial Board of Medical Examiners of New Mexico made its report to the Governor on Nov. 29. There are 1,291 persons practicing medicine in the Territory. Of these 834 are regulars, 151 homœopathic, 44 eclectic, and 264 non-graduates entitled to certificates owing to length of practice in the Territory. The Board revoked two licenses during the year, one for unprofessional and immoral conduct, and the other for passing a forged diploma and obtaining a license to practice. Eight have been obliged to leave the Territory to avoid prosecution under the act.

FALSE CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.—A physician in St. Paul, Minn., recently gave a certificate of death to the city health department, in which "sore throat" was given as the cause of death. The Health Officer, Dr. Kilvington, refused to accept it, and the physician then substituted "scarlet fever" for sore throat. The case should receive, and doubtless will have, full investigation. This kind of evasion of the law is both criminal and contemptible, and richly deserves punishment. Other cases of failure to report contagious and infectious diseases, are reported from St. Paul and Minneapolis.

INTUBATION OF THE LARYNX.—Dr. F. E. Waxham reports fifteen cases of intubation recently coming under his care, with ten recoveries, or 66 per cent. Out of a total of 173 cases there have been fifty-three recoveries, or 30 per cent., and of his last fifty cases there have been twenty-two recoveries, or 44 per cent.

THE SOUTHERN SURGICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION met in Birmingham on December 4, with a large number in attendance.