

he held was attended by many more difficulties than is commonly admitted. He presented facts and figures going to show the great necessity to study the milk and butter question in all its bearings, and to see what difficulties there were in the way of carrying out this part of the analyst's duty with justice alike to himself, the producer, and consumer. With regard to milk, many difficulties would be removed if the statement made by an expert to the Parliamentary Committee on Adulteration in 1894 were true, that the quantity of fat varied in milk, but the other constituents were wonderfully constant, and they hardly varied at all, and that according to certain rules he could tell how much water had been added to a given sample of milk, or how much cream had been taken from a given sample of milk. This unfortunately is not the case. Government officers have publicly declared that it would not be in accordance with the design of the Act that a poor man should be subjected to penal proceedings because his cow does not produce as good milk as the better herds of his richer neighbors. It has been suggested that a legal standard for milk should be adopted, and that this standard should be the average composition of commercial milk.

The hardship of such a standard would be felt by persons keeping a few cows or a single cow in country places, but in the case of town supplies the large distributor would be able to lower this standard by the help of separated milk. Again, another point arose, calling for settlement. Cows supplying milk under contract were kept as simple milk-producing machines, kept up and fed in such a way as to produce the maximum quantity of milk of the contract quality. Was milk so produced, though richer in fat and "solids not fat," as wholesome as that produced by the cow when living under normal conditions? In other words, was the percentage of "solids not fat," and fat, the true standard of value of cow's milk when taken as an article of food? This standard had been taken because it required no question to be asked or inquiries to be made as to the origin of the milk under examination, but in the case of direct milk supply to the consumer by the producer this standard needs to be modified; and in fact, it had been modified, by the magistrates. The raising of the standard would not secure the purity of the milk. The large distributors would be able to make larger profits than they do now, and the small producer would be more frequently prosecuted for adulteration through no fault of his own. In Manchester and Salford the sale of adulterated milk appeared to have been reduced to a minimum, the percentage of adulteration in Manchester being 5.4, and in Salford 3.1. This had been brought about by *appealing to the cows* supplying the suspected milk whenever such an appeal could be made. The plan

was an expensive one at first, but it eventually paid, and caused the minimum of hardship to producer, distributor, and consumer. In conclusion, the author of the address said:

"Much of the evidence which had been given with reference to mixtures was only a repetition of what was said twenty years ago, before the 1874 Commission, but it had been strongly shown that the trade labored under great hardships from the following causes: 1, the non-acceptance by magistrates trying adulteration cases of the certificate of the analytic chemist employed by the defendant, which necessitated his appearance in person at considerable expense; 2, the refusal of the magistrates to allow the defendant his full costs when the case was decided in his favor; and 3, the refusal of some magistrates to allow an appeal to the referees under the Act, and of not accepting the certificates of referees as evidence in the case. In all such cases justice must be blind; no prejudice must be imparted into the proceedings on one side or the other, and as the proceedings under the Adulteration Act were criminal, it was their duty to lean to the side of mercy and only proceed when the case was free from doubt. The large majority of manufacturers and tradesmen of this country were desirous of suppressing adulteration, and were ready to cooperate with the authorities in so doing. It would, therefore, be a misfortune if by harsh measures they lost the sympathy and support of the right-minded, who were willing to aid them in their great movement of protecting the food supply of the nation from adulteration, or of creating an impression in the minds of the Legislature that the legitimate trade of this country was being fettered and injured by their action."

None of the foregoing conditions apply in this country to any extent, and our chemists have a more elastic scale of allowance for the fat percentage. There is only one reason why milk dealers are prosecuted in the United States, that is for adulteration, and the fat percentage is only taken into account in our analyses when it falls so low as to show that water has been added. The "trade" in this country, have no reasonable complaint, and what the public wants and will have, if it can get it, is pure milk.

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S FEES.

Elsewhere we print a letter from a correspondent who invites attention to recent action of certain life insurance companies, whereby the fees of the medical examiners are to be reduced. This reduction is based on the amount of insurance applied for. It is inconceivable that the companies suppose that an examination can be any different in one case than in another. All cases require the same care and skill, and the same amount of the examiner's time. The amount of money involved in the risk is of absolutely no consequence to the examiner, however much the company may be interested, and we think so unjust a plan should be promptly receded from.

The majority of examiners are already underpaid,

as some of the companies only allow a pittance for an examination requiring not only a great deal of technical knowledge, but the exercise of the highest quality of skilled service, and ability as a cross-examiner.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Convenient Test for Color Blindness.

LA FAYETTE, IND., Oct. 14, 1895.

To the Editor:—Being called upon frequently to make color tests for railroad employes, I have been using a method which Dr. Carrow of Ann Arbor gave us in a course on ophthalmology. Whether it has been published or not, I can not say. If it has, this will emphasize its importance and convenience, and if not, will describe it for the first time. The skeins of wool have been abandoned as consuming too much time and occupying too much space.

The test consists of a sample card of Corticelli embroidery silk. On the folding card are 269 colors all named. Over the names must be pasted blank paper to hide them. These colors may now be numbered consecutively. In testing, we direct the patient's attention to one of the colors; blue, green or red. We will take, for example, blue, and ask him if he sees any color in the green or red column of colors to correspond. If he says, no, we point out to him the red, and ask him if there is anything in the blue or green column to correspond. If he answers, no, we may then ask him to name and point out the colors we have been comparing. If he answers correctly, he is not color blind to these colors so important in railway service. He must not be told the name of any color. He must tell the examiner correctly.

On the other hand, however, suppose we point out to him a simple blue and ask him if there is any color on the card to correspond and he says there is, and points to green, for example, we know him to be blind to either blue or green. To which one, is easily ascertained by asking him the name of the color to which we directed his attention first. If he calls the blue color, green, we know that he is blind to blue and *vice versa*. If he should say the red is like the blue, we know him then to be color blind to either red or blue. To find out which, we need only ask him to name the colors. If he calls red, blue, we then know him to be blind to red and *vice versa*. If red and green correspond in color to him, his color blindness will be ascertained as above. The rest of the card may be used to ascertain the different shades of different colors to which the applicant may be blind.

Geo. F. KEIPER, M.D.

Life Insurance Companies Reduce Fees.

LA FAYETTE, IND., Oct. 13, 1895.

To the Editor:— . . . Both the Equitable and the New York Life Insurance Companies have lately adopted the graded scale of fees to local medical examiners, thus:

For three thousand dollars or less of insurance . . . \$3.

For from three to twenty-five thousand 5.

To be brief and plain, I inclose the blank just received from the New York Life Insurance Company; it explains itself.

By the examination of the books of one of our oldest and most reliable life insurance agents in La Fayette, I find that nine out of ten applications for policies are for a less sum than \$3,000 insurance showing that this graded scale of fees means a cut of about 40 per cent. from old and established rates. I do not believe that the doctors throughout the country appreciate this, and I wish most earnestly that you would write one of your instructive editorials on this subject to appear in the JOURNAL at an early day. The Equitable circular announcing a reduction of fees is similar to this; in fact, it is my remembrance that it is the same.

With best wishes for the JOURNAL and its editor, officially and personally, I am, dear Doctor,

Very truly yours, W. W. VINNEDGE, M.D.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Antistreptococcin.—The *New Remedies*, September, gives a brief reference, from its foreign correspondence, to a new remedial serum bearing the name in the caption. It is the latest of the antitoxic serums. It has been developed and brought into the therapeutic field by Professor Marmorek. "It is said to destroy the pathogenic streptococcus absolutely, and will therefore prove of inestimable value in conditions which are now usually abandoned as hopeless. The serum is injected in routine style and does not produce side or after-effects." Marmorek is conducting clinical experiments which will be published as consistent with reliability. Early reports thereon have been promised.

A Health Officer Vindicated.—The Bulletin for September of the North Carolina Board of Health gives notice that Dr. John L. Ray, of Burnsville, the Health Superintendent of Yancey County, has received a handsome vindication from certain accusations against him that had found their way into the Public Documents of the State. Typhoid fever occurred in the county jail which was in an unsanitary condition. There were five cases reported as originating there, and from them not less than twenty-four cases were developed among the townspeople. Dr. Ray used due diligence in reporting the cases, in applying disinfectants, and in urging the cleansing of the jail by the officers having charge of that institution. Notwithstanding his courageous efforts, the Public Documents contained a severe criticism, alleging neglect of duty. This criticism, when sifted, was found to be based in part upon a forged report by a clerk of the court. The vindication of Dr. Ray is found in a numerously signed certificate as to the qualifications and energy of the Superintendent, and as to the falsity of the allegations published in the Documents. Among the signers of the certificate are the physicians of the town, or nearly all of them, the mayor, the postmaster, the Representative, the marshal, an alderman, a justice and a score of lawyers and merchants. It appears from the Bulletin, that a betterment of the condition of the jail has been effected, following upon the appointment of a new jailer, together with a reduction of the dangers to the community from typhoid fever. The Bulletin congratulated Dr. Ray on the fact that his courage and efficiency have been vindicated beyond question by a host of competent witnesses.

Health Reports.—The following health reports have been received at the office of the Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service:

SMALLPOX—UNITED STATES.

New Orleans: October 5 to 12, 2 cases, 2 deaths.
Michigan: Battle Creek Twp., October 5 to 12, smallpox reported; Detroit, October 5 to 12, smallpox reported.
Wheeling: July 1 to September 30, 3 deaths.
Tennessee: Shelby County, September 15 to October 15, 3 cases; Memphis, September 15 to October 15, 4 cases.

SMALLPOX—FOREIGN.

Antwerp: September 21 to 28, 1 death.
Cairo: September 9 to 16, 2 deaths.
Calcutta: August 31 to September 7, 2 deaths.
Corunna: July 1 to September 30, 1 death.
Dublin: September 21 to 28, 18 cases, 2 deaths; Dublin, September 28 to October 5, 11 cases, 1 death.
London: September 21 to 28, 234 cases, 2 deaths; London, September 28 to October 5, 1 death.
Madrid: September 24 to October 1, 1 death.
Manchester: September 21 to 28, 4 cases.
Montevideo: August 31 to September 14, 2 cases, 1 death.
Naples: September 28 to October 5, 1 case, 1 death.
Odessa: September 21 to 28, 1 case.
Prague: September 21 to 28, 2 cases.
Rio de Janeiro: September 7 to 21, 135 deaths.
Rotterdam: September 28 to October 5, 2 deaths.
St. Petersburg: September 14 to 28, 10 cases, 1 death.
Southampton: September 28 to October 5, 1 case.
Trieste: September 21 to 28, 2 cases.