

## THE MINNESOTA HEALTH REGULATIONS.

The laws of Minnesota put the formulation of health rules for the state in the hands of the State Board of Health, and this board has recently published a very complete and elaborate set of regulations, covering nearly all the points of public sanitation. Naturally this has stirred up a little opposition. There are always those who see a restriction of their liberties in salutary regulations. So far as we can see from the copy before us, the rules are reasonable and enforceable, and the fact that their making and interpretation is in the hands of the Board of Health makes it the more easy to abolish or to modify such as experience may show to be impracticable or to work undue hardship to any one. In fact, we believe that the details of such measures should be left as far as possible to an intelligent health board rather than to have them embodied in legislative enactments and only changeable by additional legislation. The rules cover the ground very completely, though we should infer that there are no distilleries in Minnesota, as the possibilities of swill milk seem to have been overlooked. We mention this simply as a suggestion to the Minnesota Board of Health. The State of Minnesota is certainly well off in its health officials.

## THE VARIABILITY OF SUPRARENAL PREPARATIONS.

The contribution by Dr. Reid Hunt and the reports of Drs. Sollmann and Brown, appearing in our Pharmacology department this week, represent entirely independent investigations, executed on different animals and by somewhat different methods. They are, however, in striking agreement by showing that the various solutions of suprarenal alkaloids on the market are far from uniform. Hunt's examination demonstrated that to produce equal effects it required of one brand five times as much as of another. Specimens obtained from one manufacturer were of uniformly good quality; one specimen obtained from another manufacturer was good, another from the same firm was inferior, while the products of one of the firms, obtained directly from the company, were uniformly bad. The report of Sollmann and Brown shows that the activity varies commonly from 65 to 100, and one sample was inactive. As pointed out by Sollmann and Brown, these results have a purely negative value; they should not be interpreted as determining the relative value of the various brands, but merely as demonstrating the variability of the products. We feel assured that this is a fault which need only be pointed out to be remedied, and that future examinations will reveal a greater degree of uniformity. It might be regretted that the reports do not mention the names of the preparations, but, under the circumstances, it has been thought best to omit these. The object of the investigation and the publication of the results is not to condemn any firm or any preparation, but to call attention to actual conditions regarding these important remedies. It is believed, too, that the publication of these reports will encourage manufacturers to test and standardize their products more conscientiously so that they may be sure that the claims on the label will be borne out. It is to be hoped that the U. S. Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service may consider it

wise to repeat the experiments occasionally and in the future to mention the names of the preparations examined. Similar experimental work has recently been done abroad. Cameron, of Edinburgh, has examined a number of suprarenal preparations on the English market and has found several of the preparations uncertain and variable—the American preparations, however, standing well in the investigation. American firms have taken the lead in the manufacture of preparations of suprarenal active principle, and it is hoped they will strive to keep up the standard and so maintain the lead.

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**Medical News****ALABAMA.**

**New Sanitarium.**—The new sanitarium of Dr. Miles A. Copeland, near Birmingham, is now open, with accommodations for 12 patients.

**Fined for Omission to Report.**—Twenty-four warrants against physicians of Birmingham were issued August 16, for failure to submit obstetric reports to the city physician, and several of these physicians were fined \$1.00 and warned that in case of future offense a heavier fine would be assessed.

**Commends State Authorities.**—In a public statement issued August 4, State Health Officer Dr. William H. Sanders, Montgomery, commends the health authorities of New Orleans and Louisiana for the care they are exercising to keep yellow fever out of the country. He states that the candor and honesty of the New Orleans physicians has done much toward allaying public fear in this regard.

**Ill and Injured.**—Dr. James E. Seay, Pratt City, is recovering from the injuries sustained in an accident on the Frisco railroad in July.—Dr. Wilson L. Heflin, Roanoke, was seized with an attack of vertigo August 2, but is now reported to be improving.—Dr. J. Ross Snyder, Birmingham, who has been suffering from typhoid fever at Hillman Hospital, is convalescent, and has been removed to his home.—Dr. Thomas E. Callan, Scottsboro, has been ill for several days in a hotel at Gadsden.

**ARKANSAS.**

**Personal.**—Dr. Arthur G. Harrison, Warren, has been selected by the State Board of Health to succeed John M. Young, Little Rock, as physician to the Arkansas Deaf Mute Institute.—Dr. Jefferson D. Southard, Fort Smith, has been appointed physician of Sebastian County, vice Dr. James W. Breedlove, deceased.—Dr. Arthur C. Jordan, Pine Bluff, fractured a rib and sustained serious contusions in a runaway accident, August 19.

**CALIFORNIA.**

**Smallpox.**—The Secretary of the State Board of Health reports isolated cases of smallpox at Red Bluff and Dunsuir.

**Funds for Fever Fight.**—The executive committee of the San Francisco Relief Corporation has appropriated \$28,000 for the use of the health board in its war against typhoid fever.

**College Notes.**—The Oakland College of Medicine and Surgery opened for its fifth annual session August 21.—The College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco, is to be rebuilt on Fourteenth street, between Woodward avenue and Jessie street, at a cost of about \$50,000.

**Tuberculosis Clinic Opened.**—A free dispensary for the treatment of tuberculosis, connected with the Medical Department of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, was opened August 6. The dispensary is under the direction and supervision of Dr. Frances M. Pottenger, medical advisor of the Anti-Tuberculosis League, assisted by Drs. W. Jarvis Barlow, George H. Kress and Sleeper.

**Typhoid Fever.**—The mysterious disease reported among the Japanese laborers in Pasadena has been pronounced to be "typho-malarial" fever. Two deaths have been reported.—On August 8 three patients with typhoid fever were removed to the hospital from the relief camp, Mariposa. The camp was located next to a pond of stagnant water and had no kitchen.