

Special reference is made to the immunity from small-pox enjoyed by Australia, and to the necessity for better regulations for preventing the spread of the disease by tramps and common lodging-houses.

Fifth, This final portion of the majority report relates chiefly to the proposed alterations of the laws which were published in the brief interim report of 1892, namely, that *repeated* penalties for violation of the law should not be enforced, and that persons imprisoned for such violation should not be treated as ordinary criminals. This majority report is signed by eleven members of the Commission, two of whom, Messrs. W. G. Hunter and Jonathan Hutchinson, believed in the enactment of more stringent measures, while Messrs. Collins and Picton dissent from the report, and give their reasons for so doing in the closing pages. An amusing comparison occurs in this portion of the report where the ratio of passengers killed in railways is compared with the fatal accidents from vaccination very much to the damage of the latter, the enormous saving of human life from death by small-pox by means of vaccination being either left out of sight, or flatly denied. This portion of the report also lays great stress on a subject which has little interest to American readers, namely, the risk of syphilitic infection, for the reason that the use of humanized lymph is in the United States almost entirely a thing of the past.

On the whole, a careful reading of the whole report will only serve to strengthen the professional reader in his belief in the genuine character of the protection from small-pox afforded by vaccination.

The report is intensely English, and the reader cannot help wishing that a more complete reference had been made to the experience of Germany, from 1874, the date of enactment of its vaccination laws, down to the present time; since there is nowhere in the history of the subject any general instance of so conclusive a nature.

KLEPTOMANIA.

IMPERATIVE conceptions so strong as to constitute uncontrollable impulses to commit what would otherwise be crime, have so long been recognized to be as conclusive indications of mental disease as certain convulsive attacks are of epilepsy, that no one thoroughly familiar with psychiatry would presume to deny the existence of kleptomania, pyromania, dipsomania, nymphomania and suicidal and homicidal monomania, although rare, as distinct forms of insanity.

It was an English Lord Chancellor who declared, not far from a quarter of a century ago, that insanity should be treated as a subject of moral inquiry and not as a disease; and an English judge, who was on the bench about the same time, when sentencing an insane man to death for murder, said that he was not sure whether it was not more necessary to hang an insane person than a sane person.

It is not strange then, perhaps, that the force of

precedent is so strong in England that an English court has recently sentenced a lady to prison for shop-lifting, in spite of the facts that the evidence was conclusive as to her being a kleptomaniac and that her irresponsibility was testified to by Dr. George H. Savage, of London, one of the most distinguished experts in insanity living, whose good judgment and integrity stand as high as his medical skill.

We expected from our esteemed contemporary the *Daily Advertiser* something better than its comments on this case, and especially its final intimation that "if the question were to be decided upon the unbought opinions of high medical authority — not according to that most venal and shameful of purchasable commodities, 'expert testimony' — it would probably be found that kleptomania is to the full as common a disease in the families of workingmen as in those of millionnaires."

If one person is unable to protect himself or his family from the injustice of the courts, is that any reason why another who can do so should fail to use his opportunities to the utmost? Our suggestion would be rather to find some means of protecting those people who are now sentenced for crimes of which they are innocent because of insanity which they have not the means to prove.

MEDICAL NOTES.

A CLERICAL DENTIST. — A Sunderland (England) vicar has extracted 25,000 teeth from his parishioners in the course of his pastorate.

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY SURGEONS. — The sixth annual meeting of this Association will be held in the Academy of Medicine, New York City, on Tuesday, November 17, 1896.

THE SOUTHERN SURGICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. — The Ninth Annual Meeting was held at the Nicholson House, Nashville, Tenn., on November 10, 11 and 12, 1896.

THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. — Although the tuition-fee has been increased to \$200 a year, and the standard of admission has been raised, there are more than 250 students in the first-year class during the present session.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN MEDICINE AT JOHNS HOPKINS. — W. S. Thayer, M.D., who for two years has been Associate in Medicine in Johns Hopkins University, has recently received the appointment of Associate Professor of Medicine in the same institution.

THE PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. — The Jubilee of the Pathological Society of London was celebrated on October 20th. The address of the President, Mr. H. T. Butlin, was an interesting review of the history of the Society, the objects of its founders, the influence of the Society on the progress of pathology, and the applications of pathology to

practice. Several of the original members of the Society are still members, among them being Sir William Jenner and Sir Richard Quain.

THE YOUNGEST HUMAN OVUM.—Professor Leopold exhibited at a recent meeting of the Naturforscherversammlung, at Frankfort-on-the-Main, an ovum the size of a lentil which was found in the interior of a uterus removed from a woman of thirty for cancer of the cervix. After careful inquiries it was concluded that the ovum had reached the eighth day after conception. Successful sections of the ovum were obtained; and a full report of this remarkable case, illustrated, will, it is said, be published.

PARAFFIN WAX AS A CONDIMENT.—At Birmingham, England, according to the *London Daily Telegraph*, three confectioners were fined for selling “chocolate chumps,” which contained paraffin wax and other injurious ingredients, but no chocolate. The city analyst stated that paraffin wax was probably more indigestible than India-rubber or a paving-stone. It may be perhaps as indigestible as either of the substances mentioned, but is certainly easier to masticate.

COUNTERCLAIM FOR PHYSICIAN’S SERVICES ALLOWED IN AN ACTION AGAINST HIM FOR MALPRACTICE.—The Supreme Court of Iowa, in a recent case brought before it on appeal by the plaintiff from a judgment entered on a verdict in his favor in an action for damages against a physician and surgeon for alleged malpractice in reducing a fracture of the plaintiff’s arm, laid down the rule that the fact that a physician was guilty of negligence in the treatment of his patient, resulting in damages to the latter, does not necessarily preclude him from recovering any compensation whatever for his services, the amount of his recovery, if anything, depending on the amount of damages suffered because of his negligence.

RUSH MONUMENT COMMITTEE.—Dr. George H. Rohé, of Sykesville, Md., Secretary, notifies us, under date of October 31, 1896, that the following subscriptions to the Rush Monument Fund have been received:

1896.		
April 17.	Dr. J. W. Hoff, Pomeroy, O.	\$5.00
“ 17.	Dr. T. J. Acker, Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y.	5.00
“ 30.	Peoria City Medical Society (through Dr. O. B. Will), Peoria, Ill.	25.00
“ 30.	Dr. D. W. Cathell, Baltimore, Md.	1.00
“ 30.	Dr. W. T. Cathell, Baltimore, Md.	1.00
May 9.	Dr. J. P. Getter and others, Mifflin Co., Pa.	3.00
“ 21.	Dr. E. H. Bishop, Towson, Md.	1.00
June 10.	Dr. C. B. Burr, Flint, Mich.	10.00
“ 29.	Dr. W. H. Hardin, Anderson C. H., S. C.	1.00
“ 29.	Herkimer Co. Medical Society (through Dr. G. Graves), Herkimer, N. Y.	25.00
Sept. 30.	Dr. J. W. Grosvenor, Buffalo, N. Y.	1.00
“ 30.	Interest to date,	81.00
		159.00
	Before reported,	3,727.39
		\$3,886.39

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS, at its ninth annual meeting, held at Richmond, Va., elected the following-named officers for the ensuing year: President, James F. W.

Ross, M.D., Toronto. Vice-Presidents, George Ben Johnston, M.D., Richmond, and John C. Sexton, M.D., Rushville, Ind. Secretary, William Warren Potter, M.D., Buffalo. Treasurer, Xavier O. Werder, M.D., Pittsburgh. Executive Council: Charles A. L. Reed, M.D., Cincinnati; Lewis S. McMurtry, M.D., Louisville; A. Vander Veer, M.D., Albany; J. Henry Carstens, M.D., Detroit, and William E. B. Davis, M.D., Birmingham. The next annual meeting was appointed to be held at the Cataract House, Niagara Falls, N. Y., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 17, 18, 19 and 20, 1897.

LONGEVITY AND SLEEPING BY COMPASS.—“A Magdeburg physician,” according to the *Lyon Médical*, who died recently at the age of one hundred and nine, attributed his remarkable longevity to his constant practice of sleeping with his head to the north and his feet to the south. He considered this position most favorable to the magnetic currents which run constantly toward the north pole, and increase the energy of the vital principle. Correspondents of Dr. Felix Bremond, of the *Petit Marseillais*, have recorded results at variance with these views. One of them found that he slept better with his head to the east instead of to the north. The other found that a kind of nervous irritation to which he was subject ceased when he placed the head of his bed a little east of north. This position of the head of the bed brought him more sound and peaceful slumber, and with such regularity that when he wished to rise earlier than usual in the morning, all he had to do was to change the direction of the head of his bed, when his sleep became lighter and of shorter duration. Dr. Bremond himself, however, found that the direction of his body made no difference to the soundness of his slumbers, provided he went to sleep in a comfortable bed, at the usual hour and at the end of a day of active work, a conclusion with which it is probable most hard-worked physicians will agree.

CREMATION AND THE LIVERY STABLE.—A story has appeared in the lay press to the effect that on the death of a prominent resident of a certain New England town, the director of the funeral went to the livery-stable keeper and ordered one carriage for that function. “One?” said the stable man. “Yes, one,” was the reply. “You don’t mean it?” “Certainly; he’s to be cremated.” The man drew in his breath in a long whistle. “Gosh! Electric cars and bicycles, and now, cremation!”

BOSTON AND NEW ENGLAND.

ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN BOSTON.—For the week ending at noon, November 4, 1896, there were reported to the Board of Health, of Boston, the following numbers of cases of acute infectious disease: diphtheria 125, scarlet fever 25, measles 78, typhoid fever 63. For the week ending November 11th, the following were reported: diphtheria 104, scarlet fever 17, measles 11, typhoid fever 14.

LOWELL INSTITUTE LECTURES. — Dr. D. G. Brinton, of Philadelphia, is delivering the lectures in the current Lowell Institute Course, on the "Religions of Savage Races."

THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF HEALTH. — The quarterly meeting of this Association was held recently at the Parker House. Legal questions connected with the enactment of health regulations, and measures for the restriction of the spread of measles, were the questions for discussion. Dr. H. P. Walcott presided at the dinner served at the beginning, and Dr. Samuel H. Durgin conducted the business session.

THE PAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS. — Dr. Irving A. Watson, of Concord, N. H., Secretary of the American Public Health Association, has gone to the Pan-American Medical Congress as a delegate from the New Hampshire Medical Society.

NEW YORK.

A NEW BUILDING FOR THE GERMAN POLIKLINIK. — A reception was held at the German Poliklinik, No. 78 Seventh Street, on November 5th, to celebrate the opening of the new building next door, at No. 80. It is four stories high, of brick, and has about the same accommodations as the old building. The Poliklinik was organized in 1883, and during the last year 18,618 patients were treated there; the average daily attendance being 197. Dr. C. A. Von Ramdohr is the Secretary.

IMPROVEMENTS AT BELLEVUE AND BLACKWELL'S ISLAND HOSPITALS. — The Board of Estimate and Apportionment has approved plans for the construction of two pavilions, for erysipelas and contagious cases, and for a new boiler and laundry building at Bellevue Hospital, at a cost of \$180,000, and also for a new kitchen and two towers at City (Charity) Hospital on Blackwell's Island, at a cost of \$72,500.

ROOF GARDENS ALONG THE RIVER. — An important measure for the health and recreation of the poor in summer has been inaugurated in the contemplated construction of public roof gardens over several of the large piers along the river front. At a special meeting of the Dock Board held November 2d, the plans for such a roof garden above the pier at the foot of East Third Street were approved. It will be three hundred feet long, by fifty feet wide, with an arched roof, while the sides will be left open. The roof garden will be plentifully supplied with chairs and benches and in the centre there will be a band-stand.

DEATH OF DR. LANGAN. — Dr. John T. Langan, one of the most prominent physicians in the north-western part of the State of New York, died at his home at Oswego, at the age of thirty-nine years.

THE MOUNTAINSIDE HOSPITAL. — The sixth annual meeting of the Mountainside Hospital Association was held at Montclair, New Jersey, on November 6th. The treasurer's report showed that during the past year many gifts had been received, including

one of \$10,000 in memory of the late Dr. John W. Pinkham, part of which has been used for the building of an isolating ward for contagious diseases. Several gifts of land have also been made, and one donor contributed ice to the value of over \$600. Three nurses who had completed their course of training in the hospital received diplomas from Dr. J. J. H. Love, President of the Medical Board, and Dr. E. C. Spitzka, of New York, delivered an address on "Popular Errors Regarding Mental Diseases."

A LOW MORTALITY-RATE. — During the autumn the death-rate in the city has continued exceptionally low, and in the week ending November 7th the smallest mortality yet recorded was reached. During this week the number of deaths was 618, against 629 the week previous. The number of deaths from scarlet fever declined from 7 to 1, those from typhoid fever, from 6 to 4, and those from consumption, from 95 to 87; and the deaths from diphtheria increased from 20 to 26, and those from pneumonia, from 76 to 88; while those from measles and whooping-cough were the same in each week, namely, 2 and 3 respectively.

Miscellany.

COMING MEETING OF THE PAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.

THE regular correspondent of the *Boston Herald* writes from the City of Mexico as follows:

The medical world here is expectantly awaiting the assembling here, November 16th, of the Pan-American Medical Congress, at which will be present some six hundred physicians and their wives, representing every country in the new world, from Chili and the Argentine up to Canada, and also from Cuba and Hayti. The United States contingent will number three hundred. It is the intention of the city and federal authorities to give the doctors and their women folk a splendid reception, and display to them the proverbial hospitality of Mexico.

Among the United States delegates are State government representatives, and doctors specially commissioned by American scientific societies. This will be the second Pan-American Medical Congress, the first having assembled in Washington in 1893 at the invitation of the United States government. The Congress will be divided into sections, ten of which will meet in the historic School of Mines, which was founded by wealthy Spaniards in the times of the viceroys, for the improvement of technical education, and which, on the occasion of General Grant's visit to Mexico, was fitted up for his accommodation in truly regal style. The Bacteriological Section will meet in the College of Medicine, in the ancient edifice once the home of the holy inquisition, while the Section of Military Surgery and Transportation will hold its sessions in the military hospital.

The inaugural session will take place in the National Theatre, an edifice of the size of the Boston Theatre, on the night of the 16th, when President Diaz will make a speech of welcome, and Dr. William Pepper of the University of Pennsylvania will also address the Congress and the invited guests.

On the night of the 18th, the city government will give a grand reception in the halls of the ancient, but splendid Ayuntamiento building on the grand plaza, in which a monster orchestra, composed of all the military bands of the garrison, will play American and Mexican airs, while a