

would have a considerable amount of good results. If a child with scarlet fever or other exanthemata is well protected as to the ears with a nightcap much can be done to forestall trouble. If the case is treated early I think we can bring it to a successful issue in children in fair condition of health, in something like three weeks; I have done it in eighteen days.

DR. B. A. THOMAS: Incidentally I would like to criticize the employment of the term "vaccine." I think it is proper that we should use as nearly as possible scientific terms. The therapeutic agent referred to is merely a suspension of dead bacteria in physiologic salt solution, to which has been added a minute quantity of phenol for preservative purposes; hence "bacterin" is the term which scientifically and properly expresses the nature of the preparation. "Vaccine," the term unfortunately employed by Wright, has by common usage become almost universally popularized, but strictly is a misnomer and should be restricted to the virus used in vaccinia, derived from the cow in accordance with the original suggestions of Jenner. Otitis media can be divided into the acute suppurative, and chronic suppurative varieties for bacterin treatment. The treatment has a definite accessory effect in conjunction with other forms of treatment. Local measures should never be omitted. I feel that bacterin therapy in otitis media has a more restricted field as a therapeutic measure than in the vast majority of affections in which it is commonly used. This is largely due to the fact that the middle ear is encased in a bony cage.

DR. JOHN A. KOLMER: Local treatment in conjunction with the bacterin treatment is advisable if it can be carried out by the physician himself. The average nurse is not able to syringe the ear satisfactorily. We are always careful to see that drainage is free and feel that anything more is unnecessary. The ear is cleansed several times a day and care observed that there is no thickening of the pus leading to retention.

Medical Economics

THIS DEPARTMENT EMBODIES THE SUBJECTS OF ORGANIZATION, POSTGRADUATE WORK, CONTRACT PRACTICE, INSURANCE FEES, LEGISLATION, ETC.

NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON A NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The proposal to establish a national department of health continues to gain favor among newspaper editors, in spite of the desperate efforts and unlimited expenditures of those having selfish reasons for endeavoring to prevent it. Evidence is not lacking that the prodigal expenditure of money and the unlimited amount of printed matter used in attempting to arouse prejudice against a proposed agency for promoting better health conditions have already caused a reaction, and that the press, as well as the people, is asking what the motives are of those who are ready to devote large amounts of time and money to prevent such legislation. American newspaper men are thoroughly familiar with all the devices of the publicity promoter. They know that only those buy newspaper space and printer's ink who expect to get a return for their money. They naturally assume that the funds for the support of such an expensive campaign come from those who fear they would lose their ill-gotten gains if a department of health, backed by the federal government, should do for the whole people what the Department of Agriculture has done for the farmer. The *Natchez Daily News* in a recent editorial comment says, in part:

NO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

"... Thoughtful citizens throughout the country will regret the inaction in a matter of transcendent importance to the people. The opposition to the measure comes from many quarters and for many reasons. Certain alleged schools of medicine are opposed to it for specious reasons, though the real reason is that if we had a department of health, what is known as the 'regular' school of medicine might be represented more

strongly than all others. Since one school represents over 90 per cent of all physicians, there would not be anything unreasonable to have them more numerously represented in the contemplated department of health.

"In other quarters the opposition is based on the ground that a national department of health would in some mysterious manner interfere with the rights of the states in home affairs. This ground is poor at best, and insincere in most cases; . . . The opposition of many well-intentioned men to the establishment of the Department of Agriculture a quarter of a century ago was based on the alleged violation of states' rights; however, states' rights or no rights, the Department of Agriculture is doing a very useful work, and its agency for good is no longer a matter of dispute. The most fanatical states' rights men do not hesitate to work tooth and nail for the improvement of rivers in their districts, and for the increase of the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the states regulation not being sufficient.

"The real opposition is chiefly due to the wilful ignoring of the fact that human health and life should be the first care of the state and of the legislator. The most freely moving object between states is man, and yet less is done to control human disease and to gather statistics concerning his birth, life and death than is done for cattle. We resort to the federal government to eradicate the tick in cattle or cholera in hogs, yet, according to some Democrats, states' rights are in the way when it comes to the establishment of a Department of Health. No doubt, such a department will be established some day, . . . when the general interest in the welfare of our children will at least equal that in the thriving of our pigs. Some day when the real concerns of the people will receive as much attention as politics, we may have a department of health."

The argument of the *News* effectually disposes of the states'-rights objector. Coming from a southern newspaper of influence, this statement is significant, yet it is no more than is to be expected. The southern states have learned the value of federal aid in the suppression of epidemics and the preservation of life. The advocates of states' rights in public health matters will not come from the south.

Equally significant is a recent editorial comment of the *Boston Advertiser*, which considers the question from an economic and social standpoint; and particularly worthy of note is the emphasis laid on the necessity of public opinion in the protection of public health. The *Advertiser* says, in part:

"The agitation for a national department of public health, at Washington, is based on some sound and able arguments, including that of economy in public service. There has been plenty of misdirected effort in the confusion which arises from the existence of so many branches of sanitary service, under the direction of different departments or bureaus of the government service. It would be possible to secure greater efficiency with striking economy, as compared with existing conditions, if the work were all placed under the control of a single department or bureau. . . .

"But the fact remains that the real, vital force that must protect the public health, if it is ever to be protected, will be found in the force of public opinion. If the people will but insist on legislation which will safeguard their interests and their lives, it will be possible for the national and the state departments of health to do what should be done; but that time has not yet come. Perhaps it will never come within the lifetime of this generation. Something may be done, here or there, for the suppression of epidemics, for the elimination of the most evident and most striking dangers to public health; but until the people make it their business to vote at the polls for their own protection against the greed or the indifference which annually sacrifices the lives of tens of thousands, there will be no hope for any adequate protection of the people against the results of insanitary methods in workshops, farms, cities, and country, generally."

The *Chicago Tribune* recently discussed the question editorially from the humanitarian standpoint, laying special emphasis on the unnecessary and avoidable loss of life under existing conditions. Under the heading "American Waste of Life," the *Tribune* says:

"When the federal government appropriated large sums to relieve such distress as was occasioned by the San Francisco or the Messina disaster, every one approved the action with a warm glow at the heart. Such aid is in every way com-

mendable, but it is aid after the fact. . . . Every day of the year there die by preventable diseases or accident a number equal to the full crews of two battleships. For the loss of one such crew we went to war with Spain. Every three months as many lives are sacrificed to those causes as there are men in the United States army. All the dead in every war we have had since 1776 only equal the yearly toll made by disease and accident in this country.

"Last year the entire population of Indianapolis died of degenerative diseases. Tuberculosis swept away every man, woman and child in Paterson, N. J. Pneumonia carried off all of the inhabitants of Wilmington, Del., and every one in Yonkers was killed by an accident. If these things really happened the whole world would be shocked and our government would stop all other legislation to enact laws looking to the prevention of such catastrophes in the future. But because these diseases carry off their victims not all in one place but in many places over the country we do nothing about it.

"President Taft has had this matter much at heart. He favors the proposed department of health and he is quoted as saying: 'There is nothing in the constitution especially about hogs, or cattle, or horses, and if out of the public treasury at Washington we can establish a department for that purpose it does not seem a long step or a stretch of logic to say that we have the power to spend the money in a bureau of research to tell how we can develop good men and good women.' Fear has been expressed that the establishment of a national health department will curtail individual liberty, but the Department of Agriculture has helped, not hurt, the farmer, and that of Commerce and Labor has immeasurably benefited the workingman and the merchant. . . .

"We are prodigal of life in a measure which amounts to impiety. The waste must be stopped, not by leaving it to the doctors but by the establishment of research bureaus, the popular education of the people in sanitary matters, and by the enforcement, when necessary, of laws designed for protection of the public against disease and accidents."

Of the three methods by which the *Tribune* proposes to stop the waste of life, probably all will admit that the second—"the popular education of the people in sanitary matters"—is the most important. So long as the people know no better, they will continue to be duped and misled by the quacks, fakers and swindlers who have preyed on them for years. It is the duty of those who know the facts to place them before the people. As soon as this is done, it will require more than one "national league" to prevent the government from protecting the lives and health of our citizens.

Especially interesting are the editorial comments of the *Chicago Tribune* in a later issue regarding the recommendations on the creation of a bureau of health contained in the President's message to Congress. The *Tribune* says:

"Another well-considered recommendation is that on behalf of the unjustly attacked bureau of health, already recommended in a previous message. The objections raised were partly disingenuous and partly mistaken, and should not be permitted further to postpone the creation of this useful bureau. One of the great public services which it is to be expected will be performed by such an institution is to give effective aid to the proper authorities for the suppression of the criminal traffic in nostrums and dangerous drugs."

In the last sentence of the extract quoted above is to be found the explanation for the opposition to the organization of an efficient federal health department. Those who have fattened for years on public ignorance and carelessness would have the people believe that the medical profession of the United States is composed of political plotters and schemers, endeavoring to advance their own interests at the expense of the public. To avoid the charge of wholesale slander on a profession, they assert that the majority of physicians are unselfish but that they are dominated by a few "political doctors." Truly, the American Medical Association is blessed in the enemies which it has made. No better evidence of the unselfishness of its aims could be asked than the methods and the arguments by which its work is being opposed. Those who favor and are working for a national department of public health should feel under deep obligations to the "National League of Medical Freedom," since this organization is truly educating the public with an effectiveness that leaves little to be desired.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE FOR COUNTY SOCIETIES

DR. JOHN H. BLACKBURN, DIRECTOR
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

[The Director will be glad to furnish further information and literature to any county society desiring to take up the course.]

Sixth Month—Second Weekly Meeting

PREPARATION OF PATIENT FOR ANESTHETIC

Time of anesthetic. Diet. Clothing. Foreign bodies in mouth. Gavage. Operating room. Position of patient for anesthetic.

CHOICE OF AN ANESTHETIC

IN HEALTHY SUBJECTS: For brief operations, for prolonged anesthesia. Age, sex, pregnancy.

IN DISEASE: Alcoholism, diseases of the respiratory tract, diseases of heart and blood-vessels, renal disease, shock from trauma, collapse from hemorrhage, ruptured viscera, etc.

IN OPERATIVE SURGERY: Operations about head, neck, face, nose, eyes, trachea, thyroid, thorax. In abdominal surgery. In labor.

INDICATIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS FOR ETHER AND CHLOROFORM.

ANESTHESIA BY SEQUENCE: Advantages and disadvantages.

SCOPOLAMIN-MORPHIN ANESTHESIA: Status, dangers.

ACCIDENTS DURING ANESTHESIA

SUFFOCATION: Causes and treatment.

RESPIRATORY PARALYSIS: Incidence, causes.

CARDIAC PARALYSIS: Causes, incidence.

TREATMENT: Of cardiac and respiratory failure; artificial respiration, cardiac massage, rhythmic traction of tongue, epinephrin, faradism, amyl nitrite.

SEQUELÆ OF ANESTHESIA: Vomiting. Shock. Post-anesthetic and central anesthetic palsies. Lung complications. Renal complications. Delayed chloroform poisoning.

Medical Education and State Boards of Registration

COMING EXAMINATIONS

IOWA: State House, Des Moines, February 14-16. Sec., Dr. Guilford H. Sumner.

KANSAS: Topeka, February 14. Sec., Dr. H. A. Dykes, Lebanon.

NEBRASKA: State House, Lincoln, February 8-9. Sec., Dr. E. Arthur Carr.

NEW YORK: New York City, Albany, Syracuse and Buffalo, January 31 to February 3. Chief of Examinations Division, Mr. Charles F. Wheelock, Albany.

Annual Meeting of National Confederation of State Boards

The National Confederation of State Medical Examining and Licensing Boards has announced that its twenty-first annual meeting will be held at the Congress Hotel, Chicago, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1911, on the day preceding the conference of the Council on Medical Education. The program will include a symposium on "State Control of Medical Colleges," which subject will be considered from the view points of the state, the law, the college, the licensing board and the medical profession.

Joint Conference on Medical Education and Medical Legislation

The American Medical Association's second joint conference on medical education and medical legislation will be held at the Congress Hotel (formerly Auditorium Annex), Chicago, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 1, 2 and 3, 1911, the first session to begin at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning.

Wednesday, March 1, will be taken up by the seventh annual conference of the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association, the program for which will include addresses and reports on preliminary education, the five-year medical course, laboratory facilities and instruction, hospital facilities and instruction, the hospital year, the license examination and reciprocity. For Wednesday evening, an address from some well-known speaker has been planned.