

Army Board are valuable because the number of men observed—over 700—is so large that the element of chance is eliminated. After twenty months of Philippine service healthy American soldiers living near the sea level and averaging 26 years of age show:

1. A red-cell count averaging 5,200,000 per cubic millimeter, and rarely falling below 4,500,000.

2. A hemoglobin reading averaging 89.6 per cent, and rarely falling below 85 per cent.

3. A color index averaging 0.86 or 0.87.

Such a red-cell count, Dr. Chamberlain concludes, "does not differ from the normal at present recognized for healthy young men in the temperate zone. The hemoglobin percentage and the color index are probably a little low, but not sufficiently so to indicate a definite anemia. The pallor not infrequently met with among apparently healthy persons in the tropics we believe to be due as a rule to superficial ischemia and not to a deficiency in the total quantity, or in any particular constituent, of the blood."

---

#### QUACKERY ABROAD

Quackery flourishes the world over. European countries, where on account of strong paternal governments many things are managed well, are not free from this pest. Quacks thrive in England, Germany and other countries of Europe, but benighted Russia seems to keep them in leash better than most other countries. As far back as 1788, laws were provided in Russia protecting the people from all forms of irregular practice, and such laws have continued to hold a restraining hand on quackery down to the present time. By the application of a well-known modern political method, however, a "joker," which affords a loophole for a certain amount of irregular practice, has been inserted into some of the laws regulating the practice of medicine. Still, the number of quacks in Russia who do business on a large scale is small.

In Germany during the early part of the nineteenth century, laws against quackery were stringent and effective, but curiously enough, at the instance of the medical society of Berlin in 1869, the regulations against irregular practice were much relaxed and the result was a tremendous development of quackery in Germany. Berthenson<sup>1</sup> says that in 1869 the number of quacks in Berlin was twenty-eight. In twenty-four years the number was over a thousand and the whole number practicing in Prussia was over five thousand. In certain districts the number of irregulars outnumbered the qualified practitioners, two to one. In 1906 it was estimated that the number of quacks in Prussia was 10,000 and the scope of their practice had become unlimited. The unqualified practitioners are regularly organized and have schools and institutions providing a

four months' course for quacks; there are over 800 societies for study in "nature healing" with a total membership of 112,000. There are over fifty periodicals with millions of circulation. The quacks come largely from the uneducated class, and it is said that over 58 per cent. of the female irregulars have been domestic servants. This condition has led to efforts to amend the laws in such a way as to limit the practice of these people to the minor ills. This has led to strongly organized opposition, similar to the League for Medical Freedom in our country, and, as in the case of our own Congress, the opposition has found support in the Reichstag. This feeling was shown by the chilly reception which the first reading of the proposed legislation received in that body, the same reason being ascribed as here, namely, that the measure would create a "medical trust."

The forces of graft and unrighteousness are peculiar to no country or clime, and they have their champions in the high places and the low. Until the people themselves are better educated concerning the danger and iniquity of quackery, they must be protected from the forces that prey. The popular understanding of these matters is becoming better every day, and, aided by proper laws, the time will come, perhaps, when quackery will be unprofitable.

---

### Current Comment

#### PRESIDENT JACOBI'S ADVICE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF INFANT LIFE

Like all that Dr. Jacobi writes, his presidential address is interesting. In this case, however, there is an added attraction because of the somewhat unconventional treatment of the subject. Sociologic facts are usually far behind medical ideals, and the prospect of their immediate betterment is not always favorable. This is strikingly shown in the address. If, as Dr. Jacobi says, half the births in this country are attended only by midwives (86 per cent. in Chicago), the abolition of the midwife is not likely to be a very sudden consummation, nor is it practically desirable, taking into consideration the welfare of the entire people. The vast majority of births are naturally among the poorer classes, including those foreign-born residents among whom it is customary to depend on the midwife in labor. Where we fail is in not sufficiently recognizing the necessity of the midwife and in not having her properly trained. European countries are far ahead of us in this respect. Germany has had her midwifery schools for more than a century; but in this country how many are there and how long have they existed? As Dr. Jacobi says, "We think nowadays that the ocean is only a short bridge; but the experiences of Europe, established on a solid and constant foundation, do not travel on it." At least some of them do not, and we have to confess it to our shame. If we would teach the midwives their duties as laid down by Dr. Jacobi, we would probably learn to

1. St. Petersburg med. Wehnschr., 1911, No. 9; Brit. Med. Jour., May 11, 1912.

consider them useful auxiliaries and a benefit to humanity. The midwife question is, as he says, one of the simple questions of medicine that cannot be considered without the consideration of social questions also. It is the same with the question of rest for the mother. If we demand rest for the mother, what shall we do to provide it for the overtasked housewife or the working woman who has to be the family provider? We are still a long way from our ideals, and it will do us no harm to recognize this fact. Every one will, we think, agree with Dr. Jacobi's statement of the superiority of maternal nursing over any artificial method. Some may, however, be not quite so optimistic as he as to its universal practicability. The illustration he gives, however, of the siege of Paris, when, owing to most unfavorable conditions, maternal nursing was the only recourse and was attended with a great reduction of infant mortality, is a very striking evidence of the possibilities. Too many babies are deprived of a large proportion of their chances of life by neglect to nurse them on the part of mothers who are capable of doing so. Perhaps as a profession we have not insisted enough on this point. Physicians are sometimes accused of losing touch with the practical relations of life, and of prescribing what would theoretically be good for the patient without regard to his ability to obtain it. Dr. Jacobi's address, with its sharp insistence on practicality, should be a wholesome tonic for any tendency to forget that medicine should be the servant of every-day life.

#### BOILED MILK IN INFANT-FEEDING

Some recent experiments in the feeding of infants would seem to indicate that our previous ideas in regard to the unsuitability of boiled milk may have to be modified. In a report to the Local Government Board (England), Dr. Janet E. Lane-Claypon<sup>1</sup> sets forth the results of interesting experiments, chiefly by Germans, showing that breast-feeding is best for the young of all mammals, especially during the early weeks of life, as of course was known. It was found by Thiemich that human infants as well as other young animals thrive best on the milk of their own species, but that boiling of the milk, either human or other, made practically no difference. It was thought that when the boiled milk of a foreign species was fed to infants, owing to the difference in the composition of the milk, the boiling would have a more appreciable effect. This, however, was found likewise not to be the case. This is also the observation of Finkelstein. The observations of Dr. Lane-Claypon are founded on the records of Ballin in Berlin among the children of the working class, one series being breast-fed and the other on the milk from the municipal dairies which contained 3 per cent. of fat and 20,000 to 30,000 bacteria per cubic centimeter. This is milk of high purity and is produced and handled by scientific methods. It was found that the breast-fed children did not have so great a physiologic drop in weight immediately after birth as did those artificially fed on boiled cow's milk, and the weight curve steadily increased. In those fed on boiled cow's milk, the drop

in weight in the early days was very considerable, but by the end of the two hundred and thirtieth day, the difference was no longer present and no difference was to be noted down to the end of the first year, except possibly a slight variation in favor of the boiled milk. An examination at the end of twelve months did not show any greater percentage of rickets in the babies fed on boiled milk than in the breast-fed infants. As pointed out by Dr. Lane-Claypon, however, these conclusions in regard to boiled milk may not be applicable to the whole population, since the results may have been influenced somewhat by the good medical care or supervision given the infants. The findings are interesting, however, in view of the previous conclusions as to the rôle of boiled milk in producing constipation or other digestive disturbances and rickets. They are important also as indicating that boiling may, without impairing the nutritive value of the milk, be substituted for pasteurization, which, unless carefully and properly done, does not destroy all deleterious bacteria and spores. In the light of these experiments, it would appear that boiled milk would be preferable to pasteurized.

#### A STATE FAMILY BIBLE

Kentucky is one of the southern states which has recently adopted a modern law for the registration of vital statistics. Put into force a little over a year ago, it has been on trial. As usual, it encountered opposition. Some people were unable to see why births and deaths should be recorded; others did not like to go to the trouble to make out an orderly record of these occurrences. Because physicians and medical organizations led the way in securing this needed legislation, it was, of course, regarded as something for the benefit of physicians rather than for the public good. Shakespeare asked—and so have many philosophers since his time—“What's in a name?” and the wisest of these inquirers have recognized the importance of naming a thing properly, if it is to stand well in the public eye. Evidently this fact is recognized in Kentucky. The leading editorial in the May 1 issue of the *Kentucky Medical Journal*, under the heading “Name the Babies,” discusses some of the difficulties encountered in putting the new law into effect. In this connection, the editor philosophically refers to the State Bureau of Vital Statistics as “Kentucky's Big Family Bible.” A happier name could not well be devised. When the people of Kentucky understand that the object of birth registration is to record the name and date of arrival of each little citizen of Kentucky, so that its legal identity may be established, and that the state is simply exercising the same care that leads a father to inscribe each birth in the family Bible, public support of the measure will be increased and assured.

#### SHOULD THE STATE PAY THE PHYSICIAN?

That the state should pay the physician, though a socialistic doctrine, is the belief of the editor of the Cuban *Revista de Medicina y Cirugia*. He says that the health of the people is the supreme asset of a country, and that those whose services are devoted to maintaining

1. Reports to the Local Government Board on Public Health and Medical Subjects, new series, No. 43.

it at its highest point should be recompensed by the public when the individual patient is unable to do this. In Cuba, the editor declares, the public health has been so improved by the measures adopted by the sanitary authorities that the physicians have less and less to do and are consequently passing through a serious economic crisis. All of these measures are socialistic, he says, including the establishment of hospitals, day nurseries, milk stations, etc. Thus socialism is accomplishing a bloodless revolution. Gradually, almost without realizing it, the most advanced civilized nations are progressing toward socialism, and in medicine, more than in any other profession, he notes this socialistic evolution. He believes that professional services should never be rendered gratis, but that if an individual too poor to pay receives the benefit of such services the state is under obligation to pay for them. All of which may be true in theory.

#### THE ASSOCIATION IN SESSION AT ATLANTIC CITY

The American Medical Association is holding its sixty-third annual session this week at Atlantic City, N. J. As we go to press, telegraphic advice is received that the meeting is an enthusiastic one, well attended, and that it is favored by delightful weather. The House of Delegates met on Monday so as to get a considerable portion of work done before the commencement of the scientific proceedings on Tuesday. A report of the first meeting of the House of Delegates is given in this issue, commencing on page 1783 and including the reports of the Secretary, the Board of Trustees, etc. The report will be continued in *THE JOURNAL* next week. On Tuesday morning at 10:30 the scientific proceedings of the session opened with the General Meeting. At this meeting President-Elect Jacobi was installed in office and became President Jacobi. The splendid address which he delivered is published in this issue. Governor Wilson was one of those who welcomed the Association to Atlantic City, and he was given a great ovation by the audience. The attendance at the general meeting was unusually large. President Jacobi was warmly received by the House of Delegates when he took the chair of that body. Tuesday afternoon the various sections held their opening sessions, and there seemed to be an unusual spirit of interest in their work. There are fourteen sections this year, each with a good program. On Monday a series of clinics was held on the Steel Pier, in accordance with the program published in *THE JOURNAL*, May 4. One of the papers read, that by Dr. John F. Anderson, Washington, D. C., of the U. S. P. H. & M.-H. Service, appears in this issue of *THE JOURNAL*. The registration on Tuesday was about the same as three years ago, which means a large meeting. Further details will appear next week.

**The State Board of Health.**—The Board of Health is the only state department which is charged with the grave duty of safeguarding the public health. That this department should be maintained under a law which permits it to be buffeted about at the caprice of party demand or to meet the exigencies of party obligations is fundamentally wrong. Furthermore, such a condition of affairs stands as a positive menace, rendering possible, if not actually inviting, the very dangers which the department was established to prevent.

## Medical News

### ARKANSAS

**New Officers.**—Clark County Medical Association at \*Arkadelphia, May 9: president, Dr. E. K. Williams; secretary, Dr. C. A. Evans.—Pope County Medical Society at Russellville, May 4: president, Dr. C. R. Teeter, Pottsville; secretary-treasurer, Dr. D. J. B. Ferguson, Russellville.—Howard County Medical Society at Nashville, May 3: president, Dr. T. F. Alford, Murfreesboro; secretary-treasurer, Dr. E. C. Dilvey, Nashville.—Yell County Medical Society at Ola: president, Dr. C. B. Linzy, Plainview; secretary-treasurer, Dr. J. R. Linzy, Dardanelle.—Tenth Councilor District Medical Society at Springdale: president, Dr. D. R. Dorente, Fort Smith; secretary, Dr. J. A. Fergus, Rogers.—Miller County Medical Society at Texarkana: president, Dr. J. A. Lightfoot; secretary, Dr. L. J. Kosminsky.

**Medical Corps Officers Named.**—In the reorganizing of the Medical Corps, N. G., Arkansas, the following appointments are announced: Colonel, James C. Minor, surgeon-general; majors, Leonard R. Ellis, first regiment; William F. Bakersville, third regiment; William H. Abington, second regiment; staff captains, Abner H. Cook, executive officer; Signurd Ekdahl, medical supply officer; captains, Jasper E. Pringle, third regiment; Samuel E. Miller, first regiment; Robert Cowger, second regiment; Austin R. Hedrick, third regiment; Martin J. Barlow, first regiment; Joseph A. Robertson, second regiment; lieutenants, William R. Brewer, first regiment; B. F. Junkind, second regiment. The following officers were named on the reserve list: Major Clint P. Meriwether; captains, Estik D. Holland, Eli B. Bledsoe and W. H. Laird.

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**Hospital Benefit Performance.**—The third annual benefit performance given under the auspices of the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society of Chicago, May 26, at the Colonial theater, netted over \$3,000, of which more than \$2,000 was derived from the sale of seats and \$1,000 from the program returns.

**Personal.**—Drs. Stephen R. Pietrowicz and Gustavus M. Blech have been appointed members of the consulting staff of the County Hospital. Dr. Pietrowicz is superintendent of the Dunning Insane Asylum and Dr. Blech is director of the Red Cross Field Corps.—Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Cleveland Test and family, together with a party of friends, sailed for Europe, May 25.

### INDIANA

**New Officers.**—Eighth District Medical Society at Anderson, May 9: president, Dr. M. A. Austin; secretary-treasurer, Dr. Fred M. Ruby, Union City.—Ninth Councilor District Medical Society, Frankfort, May 16: president, Dr. W. R. Moditt; secretary-treasurer, Dr. Dinsmore, Hunter's Springs.

**Personal.**—Dr. J. L. Freeland, superintendent of the Indianapolis City Hospital since 1907, has resigned, to take effect July 15. Dr. John W. Sluss, professor of surgery at the Indiana University School of Medicine, is the choice of the members of the board of health to be his successor.

**Health Officers Meet.**—The Indiana Health Officers' School, at its annual session held at the Denison Hotel, Indianapolis, was addressed by Dr. W. C. Rucker, assistant surgeon-general of the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service. The Owen bill was endorsed by resolution and the following legislative committee was appointed: Dr. Simon J. Young, Valparaiso, chairman; Dr. M. J. Compton, Evansville, and Dr. Hugh Cowing, Muncie.

**Hospital Notes.**—The new St. Vincent Hospital at Indianapolis, erected at a cost of more than one-half million dollars, and the new south wing of the Methodist Hospital have been completed and soon will be occupied.—Work will soon be begun on the new ward for the Indianapolis City Hospital.—Plans are being prepared for the State Hospital to be erected near the Indianapolis City Hospital.—Articles of incorporation have been taken out by Dr. C. F. Voyles for a private hospital to cost \$10,000.

### KENTUCKY

**Dairy Cattle Retested.**—The health officer of Louisville has ordered the retesting of all dairy cattle which furnish milk to the city.

**Personal.**—Dr. A. P. Taylor, Lexington, had a narrow escape from death May 25, when his automobile turned over