

come before the chief justice of Tasmania. The chief justice delivered his reserved judgment on the application of the council that a commission should be appointed to take certain evidence in Chicago and Texas. The application has been refused, and an order in favor of Victor Richard Ratten for costs has been entered. The chief justice based his decision on a consideration of the question whether the jury would be able to determine the credibility or otherwise of witnesses from evidence taken elsewhere. He had to apply the principles of law. If the commission should be issued, the evidence would be taken and the jury would have the opportunity of seeing the demeanor of the witnesses and of observing the way in which the various questions put in cross-examination were answered. He had arrived at the opinion that the present case was one particularly unsuitable for trial in this way.

First Report of the Ministry of Health

The first report of the chief medical officer of the ministry of health has been issued. There are eight departments of this newly constituted ministry: on general health and epidemiology, maternity and child welfare, tuberculosis and venereal disease, supervision of food supplies, general practitioners' services, sanitary administration in relation to infectious diseases, Welsh Board of Health, and medical officers employed for special purposes. The staff of physicians amounts to ninety-five. British consular agents in all parts of the world have been instructed to send regular returns of infectious diseases and special reports when necessary. It is stated that there are 22,000,000 insured persons in the country with 12,000 physicians to attend them. A maximum number of 3,000 for a single-handed practice has been fixed. The chief medical officer, Sir George Newman, declares that the full value of the service will not be obtained until the physician, in addition to treating obvious disease, (1) recognizes its beginnings and treats it effectually in the early stages, and (2) becomes an exponent or missionary of personal hygiene in its preventive aspects. In regard to the dangers of typhus fever, it is declared that this may present great obstacles to the reestablishment of satisfactory peace conditions with Russia and other areas. The tendency of the Mecca pilgrimage to start epidemics of cholera which pass to Russia and thence to Europe is discussed.

BUENOS AIRES

(From Our Regular Correspondent)

Oct. 12, 1920.

Second National Medical Congress

The executive committee of the Second National Medical Congress has decided that the chief subject for discussion shall be hydatid cysts, which are rather frequent in this country. It is intended to ask all Argentine men of science to collaborate in order to study the problem from all standpoints in order that the transactions may present a complete review of our present knowledge of this disease.

Surgery Institute

The president has approved the law ordering the immediate construction of a surgical institute for the chair in charge of Professor José Arce. Four hundred thousand dollars has been provided for this work.

New Schools of Medicine

After a protracted strike, the School of Medicine of La Plata has been operating again for the last few months. Discipline is still far from perfect, and the students possess the absolute power to choose and dismiss professors. On account of the resignation of Dr. Belou, who was the organizer of the school, Dr. Greenway has become its dean.

The new school of medicine of El Rosario has been in operation this year, and its installation is nearly complete. Some of the professors for the second year courses have already been appointed; these courses will be started next year.

Scientific Lectures

An unusually large number of scientific lectures have been given either by medical professors of this city or by foreigners. Among the latter may be mentioned Professors Krause of Berlin; Leotta, Rome; J. Dumas, Paris; Infantozzi, Montevideo; Salcedo, Santiago de Chile, and Reenstierna, Stockholm. The Academy of Medicine of Buenos Aires has made Professor Dumas an honorary member. He gave a course on psychology in the school of philosophy and letters, and two lectures on mental and nervous disturbances during the war.

Practice of Medicine by Foreigners

In our country, foreigners cannot practice medicine unless they pass the full series of examinations required of Argentine students, which takes two or three years. Unless this is done, they can practice their profession only in isolated regions where there are no national physicians. An obvious case of illegal practice which has made a distinctly unfavorable impression is the behavior of some foreign physicians, often renowned professors, who come to this country under the pretense of giving lectures, but devote themselves to practicing their profession, charging large fees, all of this being accompanied by active newspaper propaganda. Little by little there is developing an attitude of resistance to this illegal practice of medicine, some of these physicians having even refused to operate free of charge in our hospitals.

Spermatozoa and Inheritance

Dr. Victor Widakowich's investigations on the morphology of the sperm of syphilitic patients have attracted much attention. His studies indicate that there is a considerable number of abnormal spermatozoa in the sperm of these patients. He states that this permits a more accurate diagnosis of this disease than any other known method. This spermatic taint persists in many patients treated and giving negative Wassermann tests. If these results are confirmed, they will assume enormous importance in the explanation of hereditary syphilitic dystrophies, and will endow spermatozoa with an all-important rôle so far as inheritance is concerned.

Dr. Decoud's Death

Dr. Diogenes Decoud, academician, who retired recently as professor of the School of Medicine of Buenos Aires, died in this city, October 2. Dr. Decoud was born in Paraguay, but he had been educated in Buenos Aires, and was a noted surgeon. His scientific accomplishments were considerable, and special mention should be made of his persistent campaigns on behalf of spinal anesthesia.

BELGIUM

(From Our Regular Correspondent)

Oct. 22, 1920.

Reeducation Schools

Before the war there were two Belgian schools of reeducation, and these served as models for the great institution of Port Villez (Eure) where the disabled Belgian soldiers will be gathered. Despite the German occupation, these schools continued to function regularly; and now that peace has been reestablished, some account should be taken of the great good which they accomplished. It might be hoped that the example set by the provinces of Hainaut and Brabant may be imitated far and wide.

The school for cripples at Charleroi opened in 1907 with thirty-one students; by 1910 the number had increased to 107.

Since then the attendance has steadily grown larger to a point at which the provincial authorities felt impelled to increase its facilities. It should be added, by the way, that it was recently decided to admit crippled soldiers, and special appropriations were voted for this purpose. The school admits congenital cripples as well as those who have been maimed in industry. In its workshops it offers a number of industrial courses, such as shoemaking, bookbinding, basket making, carpet weaving, harness making, tailoring and book-keeping, not to mention the general courses contributing to the increase of general and technical knowledge. The workshops are open all day. The students receive their lunch free of charge, and are paid for their work, just as in a commercial factory.

The Brabant provincial institute for cripples was opened in 1914, five years after the detailed proposals for its establishment were presented to the provincial council. The medical and orthopedic dispensary was opened in March, 1914. The institution was closed immediately after the outbreak of the war, and did not reopen until May, 1915, and then only with considerable difficulty. At the beginning of 1920, the register of the Brabantine institute included 509 cripples, besides forty-seven under medical treatment, and thirty-nine students in attendance on the shoemaking, orthopedic, bookbinding and basket weaving workshops. Since the opening of the harness making and tailoring shops, the number of students has been greatly augmented. The industrial courses are almost identical with those given at Charleroi.

Changes in Medical Education

Heretofore, the medical course in Belgium embraced six or seven academic sessions, the first two of which were devoted to the physical and natural sciences; the third and fourth to anatomy and physiology, and the last three to pathology, hygiene and the clinical subjects. In the course of his last three years at school, the student was expected to attend the hospitals and the special clinics. Two years' attendance at the clinics was prescribed, but attendance was obligatory only at the medical, surgical, obstetric and ophthalmologic clinics. Through some whimsical oversight in the regulations, a student could get his final diploma without studying dermatology, urology, otorhinolaryngology or any of the other specialties. This is no longer the case, however, and henceforth a candidate for the medical degree will have to present evidence of a theoretical and practical knowledge of urology, dermatology, venereal diseases, otorhinolaryngology and gynecology.

Death of Nuel

Dr. J.-P. Nuel, member of the Académie royale de Belgique, and emeritus professor of ophthalmology of the Liège medical faculty, died a few days ago. Dr. Nuel was counted among the great physiologists of the age, and made notable contributions to the physiology of vision, his most important publication being a manual on the physiology of the special senses. He had relinquished his professorship some years ago into the hands of Professor Weekers.

The Flemish Medical Congress

The Flemish scientific congress, which met at Ghent a short time ago, brought together many of the outstanding scientists of Flanders. The congress embraced three principal sections: medicine, the natural sciences and engineering. At the same time the philologists and jurists held their meetings in other cities. For some reasons it would not be surprising at this time, when the linguistic quarrel is so acute in Belgium, if this congress might not have been an attempted demonstration to unite all of the Flemish factions. Many visitors from Holland took an active part in the proceedings of the congress.

Marriages

HERBERT A. COLEMAN, Asst. Surg., Lieut. (j. g.), U. S. Navy, to Miss Odie Mary Powell, at San Francisco, October 29.

PERCY OCTAVE CHAUDRON, Dothan, Ala., to Miss Carrie Virginia Givens of Mobile, Ala., November 24.

ROYALL GRAVES CANNADAY, New York, to Miss Ramelle Burgess Smith of Albemarle, N. C., November 6.

MICHAEL JOSEPH EGAN, JR., Savannah, Ga., to Miss Elsie Frances Robider of Montreal, Que., October 2.

WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN THORNDIKE, Boston, to Miss Katherine Hunt of Auburn, N. Y., October 9.

EDWIN PORTER BUCHANAN, Pittsburgh, to Miss Marion Vesta Bayley of Lexington, Mass., October 16.

DAMON AMBROSE CRIST, Phillipsburg, Ohio, to Miss Helen Mannassau of Chicago, recently.

JOSEPH ABNER ABEL, South Bend, Ind., to Miss Theresa O'Donnell of Chicago, recently.

JOHN FRANCIS CURTAIN, Minneapolis, to Miss Mae Sandt of Winona, Minn., October 15.

J. ALEXANDER LIPNICK to Miss Ruth A. Berlin, both of Norfolk, Va., October 7.

FRANK H. HAGAMAN, Sardis, Miss., to Miss Edwina Short of St. Louis, October 31.

MAURICE P. SEIDNER to Miss Bertha Reisman, both of Chicago, recently.

SAMUEL J. GINSBURG to Miss Yetta Weiss, both of Chicago, recently.

Deaths

John Randolph Ham, Brookfield, Mass.; Bowdoin Medical School, Brunswick and Portland, Maine, 1866; aged 78; a veteran of the Civil War, assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Fifteenth New Hampshire Infantry; a member of the New Hampshire Medical Society; died, October 31.

Willard Nathan Bell, Ogdensburg, N. Y.; New York Homeopathic Medical College, New York, 1882; aged 63; a specialist in diseases of the eye and ear; for ten years a member of the board of education of Ogdensburg; died, October 25, from pneumonia.

William D. Carter, Nashville, Ill.; Rush Medical College, 1862; Chicago Medical College, 1866; aged 83; a member of the Illinois State Medical Society; assistant surgeon of the Forty-Fourth Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War; died, October 27, from pneumonia.

Albert Freeman Snell, Jr., Cincinnati; Eclectic Medical College, Cincinnati, 1914; aged 32, associate professor of histology and embryology in his alma mater; lieutenant, M. C., U. S. Army, and discharged Feb. 26, 1918; died, October 29.

Edward Gray, Berkeley, Calif.; College of Physicians and Surgeons in the City of New York, 1875; aged 70; for twelve years resident physician at the Sonoma State Home, Eldridge, Calif.; died suddenly, November 3, from heart disease.

Stephen William Hayes, New Bedford, Mass.; Harvard University Medical School, 1870; aged 72; visiting physician to St. Luke's Hospital; at one time president of the South Bristol Medical Society; died, November 2.

Richard Thomas Holland, Castleberry, Ala.; University of Alabama, Mobile, 1890; aged 55; a member of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama; died, September 21, from general paralysis.

Edmond D. Mills, Memphis, Mich.; Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery, Detroit, 1896; aged 51; died at the State Psychopathic Hospital, Ann Arbor, October 19, from hyperthyroidism.

Richard H. Lull, Evanston, Ill.; Rush Medical College, 1883; aged 60; assistant chief surgeon of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad; died, November 11, from angina pectoris.

William Russell Palmer, Johnsonburg, Pa.; University of Buffalo, 1887; aged 57; was instantly killed, November 3, when the automobile in which he was riding plunged over an embankment.

⊕ Indicates "Fellow" of the American Medical Association.