

class of 1892, joined the Massachusetts Medical Society in the same year and settled in practice in Boston. His interest was in internal medicine and in chemistry. Following 1908 he lived successively in Cambridge, Watertown and Belmont, moving to Lynn in 1919. Laterly he was employed in the chemical laboratories at the State House. He is survived by a widow and a son.

**Miscellany.**

**LEGISLATIVE MATTER.**

**MENTAL HYGIENE.**

THIS act passed in the later sessions of the Legislature is supplementary to the letter of Dr. L. Vernon Briggs in the issue of July 27:

**CHAP. 519.**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HYGIENE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES.**

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** Chapter nineteen of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section four the following new section:—Section 4A. There shall be in the department a division of mental hygiene, under the supervision of a director. The commissioner, with the approval of the governor and council, may employ such expert assistance to serve in said division as may be necessary.

**SECTION 2.** Chapter one hundred and twenty-three of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section three the following new section:—Section 3A. The department shall take cognizance of all matters affecting the mental health of the citizens of the commonwealth, and shall make investigations and inquiries relative to all causes and conditions that tend to jeopardize said health, and the causes of mental disease, feeble-mindedness and epilepsy, and the effects of employments, conditions and circumstances on mental health, including the effect thereon of the use of drugs, liquors and stimulants. It shall collect and disseminate such information relating thereto as it considers proper for diffusion among the people, and shall define what physical ailments, habits and conditions surrounding employment are to be deemed dangerous to mental health.

**SECTION 3.** Said chapter one hundred and twenty-three is hereby further amended by inserting after section thirteen the following new section:—Section 13A. Such of the powers and duties conferred or imposed upon the department, relating to the cause and prevention of mental disease, feeble-mindedness, epilepsy and other conditions of abnormal mentality, as the commissioner may determine may be exer-

cised and performed by the division of mental hygiene. In addition to said powers and duties, said division shall institute inquiries and investigations for the purpose of ascertaining the causes of mental disease, including epilepsy and feeble-mindedness, with a view to its prevention. It may also establish, foster and develop out-patient clinics. (Approved June 8, 1922.)

**POST-OPERATIVE COMPLICATIONS OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT.**

DR. H. RYERSON DECKER, F.A.C.S., of Pittsburgh, Pa., says in *Current Research in Anesthesia and Analgesia* "that complications of the respiratory tract develop after operation with greater frequency and more serious consequences than most surgeons and anaesthetists appreciate. No clinics and no clinicians are immune, especially if they make careful observations and keep accurate records. Collected figures that are reliable, such as given in Table 1, show that on the average one case in every forty-five operated upon develop a respiratory tract lesion and that one case in every two hundred dies from this complication.

**TABLE 1.**

	Operations.	Morbidity.	Morbidity Per Cent.	Mortality.	Mortality Per Cent.	Mortality of Morbidity Per Cent.
Cutler & Morton, Mass. Gen'l.	3,400	65	1.8	33	.94	50.7
Armstrong, Montreal Gen'l...	2,500	55	2.2	32	1.28	58.1
Mayo Clinic.....	16,317	220	1.32	15	.11	0.6
Von Lichtenberg.....	23,673	440	1.9	..	..	..
Cutler & Hunt, Peter Brigham	1,562	55	3.52	11	0.7	20
Decker, Pittsburgh, 1920.....	5,976	69	1.2	29	0.5	42
Decker, Pittsburgh, 1921.....	2,125	16	0.7	6	0.3	37.5

"Last year I reviewed a series of 5,976 cases operated upon consecutively in the surgical services at St. Francis Hospital and my own at Presbyterian Hospital, Pittsburgh, in which series the morbidity was 1.2 per cent., and mortality 0.5 per cent., both comparatively low figures, as seen by Table 1. However, one should make due allowance for statistics. In our series we excluded minor cases which had no anaesthetic or remained in the hospital less than two days, cases of primary surgical respiratory tract disease, e.g., suppurative pleurisy, in which respiratory tract complications are to be expected, cystoscopic examinations, and finally nose and throat cases, e.g., tonsillectomies for which the patients remain in the hospital so short a time, that records of the post-operative course are not available. Nor in our report did we take cognizance of the milder respiratory tract complications, such as coryza, pharyngitis, and tonsillitis, inasmuch as they involved no serious consequence to the patient, and, furthermore, were incompletely recorded.

"In the last sixteen months, from January 1,

1920, to May, 1921, we have extended our observations, and now report a review of 2,125 cases from the same sources as in our previous study (the surgical services of R. T. Miller, Mercy Hospital, R. R. Huggins, B. Z. Cashman, W. O. Sherman, and E. W. Meredith at St. Francis Hospital, and my own at the Presbyterian), and with an even lower morbidity and mortality of 0.7 per cent. and .03 per cent. respectively, as seen by Table 1.

The morbidity by disease is shown in

TABLE 2.

	1920	1921
Lobar Pneumonia .....	45	8
Broncho-Pneumonia .....	7	6
Bronchitis .....	7	2
Pleurisy:		
Dry .....	7	1
Sero-fibrinous .....	2	..
Empyema .....	1	..
Pulmonary Embolism .....	2	..
Pulmonary Abscess .....	0	1
	71	18
No. of Patients .....	69	16

"The series shows the usual preponderance of pneumonia, this time nearly equally distributed between the lobar and lobular types. This corresponds more nearly to the findings in other clinics although Cutler, in 1600 cases at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital this last year, has found only one case which he has called lobar pneumonia.

"It is beyond the limits of this paper to enter into a full discussion of the clinical course of the post-operative respiratory tract complications, so we shall present only a brief summary of some of the important features as we have observed them, in order that we may more fully consider what to us is of more practical import, their etiology and treatment.

"Pneumonia is by far the most frequent and serious complication, in our series, being responsible for 75 per cent. of complications and 90 per cent. of the mortality. Autopsy reports are scarce, but those published show that there may be every known type of pathology, including lobar, lobular (broncho), embolic (infarction), gangrenous, hypostatic, and, lastly, a type important and frequent, which corresponds to a type of non-surgical pneumonia called by the French School, *maladie de Woillez*, and indeed resembles closely, as we have seen it, the gross appearance of *influenzal pneumonia*."

The writer then proceeds to give the clinical and pathological features of each complication.

This is an important summary of the dangers of anaesthesia and to the occasional etherizer is of especial value in so far as it may lead to recognition of well known dangers which may not have been observed by a recent graduate who under force of circumstance may be called upon to administer anaesthetics. Since these

accidents occur in the cases cared for by trained men the facts should be made known to friends of patients.

## APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.

AMONG the appropriations made during this session of Congress the following items appear:

*Navy Appropriations.*—Care of lepers, Navy Station, Island of Guam, \$18,000; for necessaries, Medical Department, \$2,400,000; contingencies, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, \$435,000; bringing remains of sailors and marines from France, \$65,000; care of naval hospital patients, \$85,000; complete construction naval hospital, San Diego, Calif., \$500,000.

*Army Appropriations.*—Water and sewers at military posts, \$2,000,000; Letterman Hospital, California, \$55,000; claims officers, nurses and enlisted men for pay and allowances during World War, \$500,000; construction and repair of hospitals, \$529,360; maintenance of quarters for hospital stewards, \$10,000; medical and hospital department of army, \$1,000,000; hospital care, Canal Zone garrisons, \$40,000; Army Medical Museum, \$7,500; library, surgeon-general's office, \$12,000; office of surgeon-general, \$223,280; artificial limbs, trusses, etc., \$36,750.

*Department of State Appropriations.*—Annual share of United States in maintenance of International Sanitary Bureau, \$11,323.16; annual quota of United States in support of the International Office of Public Health, \$3,860; annual contribution for support of Somerset Hospital at Cape Town, Africa, \$50.

*Department of Justice Appropriations.*—Enforcement of national prohibition act, \$250,000; hospital supplies, medicines at various federal prisons, about \$15,000.

*Treasury Department Appropriations.*—For expenses to enforce national prohibition and narcotic acts, \$9,250,000; pay and other expenses, Public Health Service, \$2,196,530; maintenance of Hygienic Laboratory, \$45,000; medical examination of aliens, \$5,627,394; quarantine service, \$739,000; prevention of epidemics, \$400,000; field investigation of diseases, \$300,000; Interstate Quarantine Service, \$25,000; rural sanitation, \$50,000; biologic products and viruses, toxins, etc., \$50,000; maintenance of Venereal Disease Division, \$400,000, of which sum \$225,000 shall be allotted to states for co-operative work; repair of Public Health Service hospitals: Oteen, N. C., No. 60, \$100,000; Perryville, Md., No. 42, \$150,000; West Roxbury, Mass., No. 44, \$50,000; Palo Alto, Calif., No. 24, \$50,000.

*Independent Bureaus Appropriations.*—Medical and Hospital Services, \$64,658,680; Vocational Rehabilitation, \$146,409,188.80.

*Interior Department Appropriations.*—Sup-

pressing liquor traffic among Indians, \$30,000; relieving and preventing disease among Indians, \$370,000; investigation of school hygiene, etc., \$50,000; medical relief in Alaska for Eskimos, \$90,000; investigations of safety of miners, \$378,000; operation and purchase of mine rescue cars, \$285,000; operation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital for Insane \$1,000,000, repair to buildings \$100,000, erection of additional buildings, \$128,500; Columbia Institution for Deaf, \$95,000; Freedmen's Hospital, \$118,555.

*Labor Department Appropriations.*—Children's Bureau, \$106,040; investigation of child welfare, \$120,000; Maternity and Infancy Act, \$1,240,000.

*Agricultural Department Appropriations.*—Tuberculosis in animals, \$2,877,600; inspection of meat, \$981,180; prevention of sale of adulterated foods, \$671,401; enforcement of Insecticide Act, \$156,510; dehydration of foods, \$20,500.

*Deficiencies.*—Continuing construction of Galinger Municipal Hospital, District of Columbia, \$150,000; United States Veterans Bureau, additional for vocational rehabilitation, \$40,000,000; medical and hospital services, \$25,000,000; investigation of women in industry, \$1,800; Public Health Service, Interstate Quarantine Service, \$466; medical and hospital service for disabled war veterans, \$87,776.81; medical, surgical and hospital services, \$130,000; Quarantine Service, \$389,000; prevention of epidemics (emergency), \$1,000; support of National Home of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, \$514,700; medical charities, District of Columbia, \$23,170.45; support of indigent insane at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, \$148,000; Employees' Compensation Commission, \$600,000; United States Veterans Bureau, vocational rehabilitation \$73,714,182, medical and hospital services \$20,287,930; administration of Warehouse Act, \$9,015; care of insane in territory of Alaska, \$8,800; Children's Bureau for maternity and infancy welfare, \$490,000, to be apportioned among the various states; alterations and repairs to Fort Mackenzie, Wyoming, hospital, \$100,000; for additional land to Walter Reed General Hospital, \$94,703.44; United States Veterans Bureau, authorizes transfer of appropriations from Veterans Bureau to United States Public Health Service; United States Public Health Service authorized to use appropriations already made for operation of immigration hospital at Ellis Island; adjustment of Walter Reed General Hospital land purchases, \$44,109.22.

## AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION.

A CONSTANT stream of serums and vaccines to fight the epidemic diseases which are raging in Russia, particularly in the famine sections

and to those centers of population to which the famine refugees have fled, is flowing from the great laboratories of Paris to Moscow and thence into each plague-stricken town and village. Every courier of the American Relief Administration arriving in Russia brings fresh consignments of the life-saving drugs. The Medical Division of the A. R. A. is bending every effort to carry out its prophylactic program, which involves among other items the inoculation of every child receiving its rations and of every adult who receives the American gift of corn, and to all others who may apply for it.

The inoculation is proceeding rapidly throughout the 16 districts where the American medical supervisors are coöperating closely with all the health organizations of the Soviet hospitals and all of the health agencies of the Soviet government.

Every American Relief Administration feeding station, every school where feeding is carried on, every orphanage that draws American Relief Administration rations is a clinic for the administration of the preventive remedies which will help to stop the spread of the contagion.

Not only serums and vaccines are distributed, but the hypodermic syringes, the needles and the sterilizing materials needed for their administration. The activities of the Medical Division, which was at first only a small part of the American Relief Administration's program, are rapidly becoming one of its outstanding features. The scale upon which the inoculation against disease is being carried on is a stupendous one.

Vaccination against smallpox has been a general practice for years in many countries, but this is the first time in history that an attempt has been made to protect upon so extensive a scale the inhabitants of a country against cholera, typhoid, para-typhoid "a", para-typhoid "b", and smallpox at one and the same time.

Each patient with his first inoculation of the tetra vaccine which gives immunity to the first four diseases named above, also receives the ordinary smallpox vaccination, unless he can show evidence of a previous vaccination. Eight million cubic centimetres of the tetra vaccine have already been ordered and 3,500,000 doses of smallpox vaccine.

In addition to the tetra vaccine already mentioned, 300,000 cubic centimeters of triple vaccine and a million of cholera vaccine have been provided, not to speak of the anti-toxins which run into huge figures. For example, of the diphtheria anti-toxin 91,000,000 units is the provision. Six million units of tetanus anti-toxin, 200,000 of antimeningococci serum and a like quantity of polyvalent anti-dysenteric are other items on the list.

## RÉSUMÉ OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, JUNE, 1922.

### GENERAL PREVALENCE.

THERE were 6,846 cases of communicable diseases reported for this month as against 8,793 for May.

*Chicken-pox.*—There were 325 cases reported for this month.

*Diphtheria* decreased from 558 cases for May to 459 cases for June.

*Dog-bite requiring anti-rabic treatment* was reported in 29 instances. This is a larger number than was ever before reported.

*Encephalitis lethargica* was reported in 5 instances.

*Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis* was reported in 13 instances.

*German measles* decreased from 96 cases for May to 52 cases for June.

*Gonorrhoea and Syphilis.*—There were 381 cases of gonorrhoea and 126 cases of syphilis reported.

*Influenza* was reported in about the usual numbers. There were 11 cases for June, 1922, and 12 cases for June, 1921.

*Measles* has begun its annual decline. There were 3,198 cases reported for this month and 4,159 for last month.

*Mumps* decreased from 514 cases for May to 375 for this month.

*Pneumonia, Lobar.*—There were 139 cases reported for this month.

*Scarlet fever* decreased from 755 cases for last month to 470 for this month.

*Tuberculosis, Pulmonary.*—There were 614 cases reported for this month.

*Tuberculosis, other forms,* was reported in 130 instances. There were 105 cases reported for last month. In both months the incidence was unusually high.

*Typhoid Fever.*—There were 41 cases reported for the month.

*Whooping cough* decreased from 415 cases for May to 359 for this month.

### RARE DISEASES.

*Anterior poliomyelitis* was reported from Lawrence, 1; Lowell, 1; Somerville, 2; total, 4.

*Dog-bite requiring anti-rabic treatment* was reported from Brookline, 3; Cambridge, 1; Holyoke, 2; Lowell, 17; Newton, 1; Plymouth, 1; Swampscott, 2; Winthrop, 2; total, 29.

*Encephalitis lethargica* was reported from Boston, 3; Cambridge, 1; Taunton, 1; total, 5.

*Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis* was reported from Boston, 4; Concord, 1; Hingham, 1; Lawrence, 1; Lowell, 2; Lynn, 1; Northampton, 1; Peabody, 1; Wrentham, 1; total, 13.

*Malaria* was reported from Boston, 3; Everett, 1; Holyoke, 1; total, 5.

*Septic sore throat* was reported from Amherst, 1; Boston, 1; Fall River, 1; Somerville, 2; total, 5.

*Smallpox* was reported from Milford, 1.

*Trachoma* was reported from Boston, 4; Cambridge, 1; Lynn, 1; Medway, 1; New Bedford, 1; Somerville, 1; total, 9.

*Trichinosis* was reported from Holyoke, 1.

### CHILD LABOR.

A SENSE of local responsibility for the welfare of the children is what is needed to abolish child labor, declared Herbert Hoover before the National Conference of Social Work in Providence, June 27. Failing in this, an amendment to the Federal Constitution must be sought as the only other alternative to overcome what he considers "a blight that in its measure is more deplorable than war." Forward looking states have passed statutes which fully protect the child in its minority, but there is still a minority of states which are "still in the Middle Ages in their attitude toward childhood." The sense of local responsibility is the only saving grace in this matter, and nothing can be more disheartening than the impulse given to centralization under Federal control by the continuous failure of local government in a matter affecting the nation as a whole so vitally as does the question of child labor. An industry that cannot exist without cheap child labor has no right to exist. A nation that continuously exploits its children is foreordained to fail.—*The Nation's Health.*

### CHICAGO'S RAT PROBLEM.

THE business men of Chicago have secured the services of an expert in rat extermination work in order to reduce the danger and financial loss incident to the presence of rats.

The health commissioner has endorsed this movement and promised coöperation. Federal authorities claim that there are as many rats as human beings in this country.

### Correspondence.

#### DIGITALIS IN CARDIAC DISEASE.

NEW YORK, July 19, 1922.

Mr. Editor:

In reading the able and instructive article in your issue of July 13 of Dr. Henry A. Christian, I find the following on page 53: "I know of no cardiac case in which it is necessary to substitute any other drug for digitalis." This statement is far too sweeping and to my mind will occasion, not infrequently, loss of life, if followed, and also be the cause of protracted disease which might be treated successfully with at least one other drug, and that is strophanthus. I have saved lives with tincture of strophanthus in hypodermic tablet form, used sublingually, when I am confident digitalis would have been useless. I have helped restore to strength weak, irregular, fluttering hearts, when digitalis made symptoms worse. For detailed information about "sublingual medication," I refer to my article in *Medical Record*, Dec. 29, 1917.

BEVERLEY ROBINSON, M.D.