

step in this work was to show that the serum of animals rendered artificially immune was not only prophylactic but also curable, by injecting serum of a vaccinated animal into the body of a guinea pig soon after it had received a fatal dose of virulent virus, when great modification of the usual symptoms occurred and recovery ensued. Finally it was attempted to demonstrate what curative effect, if any, the injection of the serum of immunized animals would have on patients suffering from typhoid fever, and CHAUTESSE and WIDAL made two experiments of this kind on two patients, but the course of the disease was not modified. In spite of the failure of these efforts, it would nevertheless seem, that as long as the serum of animals vaccinated against typhoid infection has actual therapeutic properties, it will not be long before this important discovery can be successfully applied to the actual treatment of enteric fever.

MEDICO-LEGAL POINTS.

In a case recently tried in the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, the following decision was given: *Siebert v. The People*. Supreme Court of Illinois. (Opinion filed October 31, 1892.)

3. EVIDENCE—*Competency of expert to give his opinion*.—A practicing physician who is shown to be a graduate of a regular medical college, and to have practiced his profession for many years, is competent to give his opinion upon an hypothetical question setting forth the symptoms of a deceased person, whether the death was from the effects of arsenical poison, although he may not be shown to have had any case of such poisoning. A medical witness in giving his opinion as an expert, is not confined to opinions derived from his own observation and experience, but may give an opinion based upon information derived from medical books.

11. CRIMINAL LAW—*Instruction as to reasonable doubt*.—On the trial of a criminal case, it is not error to instruct the jury that it is not necessary to prove each link in the chain of circumstances relied on, or every fact in the case, beyond a reasonable doubt, but it is sufficient if, taking the evidence as a whole, they are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt.

15. EVIDENCE—*Offer of vial and box embraces contents*.—When a vial and box containing poison is offered in evidence and admitted, the only object of offering them in evidence being to get the contents to the jury, an instruction to the jury not to consider the contents is properly refused.

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:

‡ The first article in THE JOURNAL for Feb. 25 causes me to make one more effort to set the profession right on the subject of "Drunkenness."

Webster is cited as *authority* on the meaning of the words—law and drunkenness, but it would take a very learned man to distinguish the difference Webster makes in the meaning of the two words, drunkenness and inebriety, and I do not think there is anything to be gained in quibbling over the question as to whether a man is a drunkard or an inebriate; and from a legal standpoint it is of no consequence. If there is ever a law passed for the protection of the drunkard in his many evil deeds, the same law will apply to the inebriate. The point to be settled is this: Is

the drunkard responsible for his crimes? I claim that he is now, and ought to be hereafter. I will state a few reasons why I think so. Every State in the Union gives men a legal right to drink intoxicants, and notwithstanding the many laws prohibiting the sale of intoxicants, not one law says that man shall not have the right to drink. This is evidence that the law making power concedes man the legal right to drink or not drink, as he may elect. The law is silent until the results of *too much drinking* are manifested. So soon as man begins to violate law, whether drunk or sober, the right to check him is upheld in all law abiding communities. Now if the government is a unit in the opinion that all men have a right to drink intoxicants, how can it consistently say that a man shall not be held responsible when he violates this right and privilege by drinking *too much*. It is evident that the crime is not in the act of drinking (all men have a right to drink) but of drinking *too much*. I now venture the assertion that there is not a drunkard on the face of the globe that does not know that *too much whiskey* will make him drunk. And he further knows that if he takes this too much whiskey (in this country) he will likely get into trouble. Now apply this knowledge to any other species of crime, and see whether or not it is consistent to let the transgressor go free and unpunished.

Now, about drunkenness as a disease. If drunkenness is a disease when does it become so? How are you to know the victims? Is a man a drunkard *before* or *after* he drinks too much? I believe that the law will say that the drunkard is such only *after drinking too much*. I know that some learned men say that drunkenness is a hereditary disease, but this, if true, would only complicate matters. Let me show you some of the results that would happen if the law making powers should conclude that drunkenness is a hereditary disease, and not a vice. Every drunkard in the land would go unpunished; every criminal would plead disease as an excuse for crime. If he had been living soberly, he would claim that he had the disease in his blood, that his grandparents were drunkards; and most every man could prove that such was the case. How few men can boast of an ancestry clear of drunkenness? No, sir; this fad won't go. Drunkenness is a vice. The Bible defines it as such. Christianity teaches it and has taught it from the time of the apostles up to date.

The precedent that drunkenness is a legitimate excuse for crime would ruin any people that adopt it. It is contrary to reason, contrary to right, contrary to the Bible, contrary to God's established law, and lawyers and doctors should be the last men to say, let the drunkard go unpunished. I know that many drunkards become insane, but the law should make a very marked distinction between the two troubles. One, drunkenness, is a voluntary act, insanity cannot be helped. The law heretofore has been able to distinguish one from the other, and the physician who tries to make them identical is an ass. Without intoxicants it would be impossible to create drunkards, but the country has plenty of insane people who are in no sense, drunkards. This is enough to show the differentiation. Drunkenness is the result of too much intoxicants. Insanity is a result of a diseased brain. But why labor to prove established facts.

W. P. HOWLE, M.D.

Oran, Mo.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:

Dear Sir:—It has this day been my privilege to examine a most marvelous instance of human physical precocity. The subject is a boy, Charles Edward by name, who was born unto Mitchell and Mary Jane Paulk, who farm for a livelihood in Irwin county of this State, on the 24th day of

November, 1888, and is now four years and three months old. He measures around the chest, 29½ inches, shoulders, 37; waist, 30; hips, 34; is four feet, three inches high, and weighs 90 lbs. The hair under the arms and over the pubes, and the genitals are as fully developed as those of the average adult. There is neither mental precocity nor imbecility. There are 20 decidual or milk teeth, and he has a splendid bass voice. There was nothing unusual at birth, at which time he is supposed by the parents to have weighed about eight pounds. The father weighs 189 pounds, the mother 110 pounds, and there are three other children of natural proportions in good health. This is a case having but few parallels in history—notably, that described by Mr. Dawkes, a surgeon at St. Ives; the boy of "Salamus," mentioned by Pliny, and that seen by Craterus, who was in the short space of seven years, an infant, an adult, a father, an old man and a corpse.

J. G. HOPKINS, M.D.

Thomasville, Ga., Feb. 23, 1893.

MISCELLANY.

THE ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICINE

Will be held in Rome, September 24 to October 1, 1893. President, Prof. G. Baccelli, Rome; Treasurer, Prof. L. Pagliani, Rome; Secretary-General, Prof. E. Maragliano, Genoa.

The inauguration of the Eleventh International Congress will take place the 24th of September, in the presence of H. M. the King of Italy.

The work of the Congress will begin in the nineteen Sections on the morning of the 25th of September. It will be continued in accordance with the arrangements to be made and published both for the general sessions and the Sections. Some of the general sessions will be devoted to scientific addresses delivered by scientists of all nations.

LIST OF THE SERIES.

1. Anatomy; 2. Physiology; 3. General Pathology and Pathological Anatomy; 4. Pharmacology; 5. Internal Medicine; 6. Diseases of Children; 7. Psychiatry, Neuropathology and Criminal Anthropology; 8. Surgery and Orthopedy; 9. Obstetrics and Gynecology; 10. Laryngology; 11. Otolology; 12. Ophthalmology; 13. Odontology; 14. Military Medicine and Surgery; 15. Hygiene; 16. Sanitary Engineering; 17. Dermatology and Syphilology; 18. Forensic Medicine; 19. Hydrology and Climatology.

REGULATIONS.

1. The Eleventh International Congress of Medicine will be inaugurated in Rome, on the 24th of September, 1893, and will close on the 1st of October.

2. Any physician may become an active member of the Congress by fulfilling the conditions of membership, inscribing his name, and securing his admission ticket.

3. Scientists of other professions who, through their special studies, are interested in the labors of the Congress, may acquire the rights and assume the duties of active members, and participate in the work of the Congress, both by communication and discussion.

4. The fee for admission to the Congress is twenty-five francs, or five dollars.¹ It entitles to a copy of the Transactions of the Congress, which will be forwarded to the members immediately after publication.

5. The character of the Congress is strictly and exclusively scientific.

6. The work of the Congress will be divided amongst nineteen Sections; every member is requested to indicate, on paying his admission fee, the Section for which he desires to be inscribed.

7. The provisional committee will arrange the appointment, in the opening session, of the permanent officers. There will be a president, three vice-presidents, a number of honorary presidents and secretaries. Each Section will elect, in its first meeting, its President and a certain number of honorary presidents, who shall alternately take the chair during the session. Some of the secretaries will be

¹ Money order to the Treasurer, Professor Comm L. Pagliani, Rome, Italy.

chosen from among the foreign members, in order to facilitate the recording both of communications and of discussions in the different languages.

8. There will be daily sessions, either general or sectional. The times and numbers of the general sessions, and the business to be transacted in them, will be arranged by the President of the Congress.

9. The general sessions are reserved, *a*, for the consideration of the common work of the Congress and its common interests; *b*, for addresses and communications of general interest and importance.

10. The addresses in the general sessions, and in such extraordinary sessions as may be arranged, will be delivered by members chosen by the committee for the purpose.

11. Papers for and communications to the Congress must be announced on or before June 30, 1893. A brief abstract of every paper and communication, with their conclusions, must be sent to the committee on or before July 31. All of them will be printed and distributed to the members by authority of the president. Such as arrive after that date cannot be expected to find a place on the regular order of business, and will be accepted only if time will permit.

12. The business of the Sections will be arranged by their presidents, who will also determine the hours of meeting, avoiding those reserved for the general sessions. Two or more Sections may hold joint meetings with the consent of their presidents. There will be no vote on scientific questions.

13. Fifteen minutes are allowed for the reading of a paper or communication. In the discussion every speaker can have the floor but once, and for five minutes only. To close the discussion the author of the paper is allowed ten minutes. Additional time may be given him by the president, by special resolution of the Section, if the importance of the subject under discussion appear to require it.

14. The manuscript of all addresses, papers and communications read either before a general session or a Section must be handed to the Secretary before the close of the meeting. A special committee on publication, appointed by the president, will decide which or what part of them shall be published in the Transactions of the Congress. Such members as participate in the discussions are required to hand to the Secretaries their remarks in writing.

15. The official languages of the sessions are, Italian, French, English and German. The regulations, programs and daily bulletins will be published in the above four languages. During the meetings, however, a member may be permitted to use for a brief remark, any other language, provided some member present expresses his willingness to translate such remarks into any of the official languages.

16. The president directs the discussions according to the parliamentary rules generally obeyed in similar assemblies.

17. Persons not classified under Article 3, who are interested in the labors of a special section, may be admitted by the president of the Congress. They will receive a special ticket on paying their admission fee; will not be entitled to a copy of the Transactions; and cannot speak in the general sessions nor in any section other than that for which they were inscribed.

18. The president may invite or admit students of medicine to attend and to listen. They will be given a special admission ticket, free of charge.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Journeys and Reduction of Fares.—The provisional committee has made arrangements with the different Italian and foreign railway and navigation companies, in pursuance whereof special reduced prices have been granted on the steamers and railways of this country and of the countries which the members of Congress are to traverse.

In Italy the members will find tickets for round trips, starting from Rome; they will thereby be enabled to visit the most important cities and the various universities. In regard to this, further notice will be given.

The Ladies of the Members will be furnished ladies' tickets, which will entitle them to the reduced fares granted to the members, and to participate in the festivities connected with the Congress.

Festivities.—Besides the receptions which the kind and hospitable citizens of Rome will offer to the members, the Italian colleagues will endeavor to return to the best of their power, the kindness they experienced during their stay abroad.

On some evening yet to be decided, the members of the different sections will join at a dinner which will be given in one of the first hotels of Rome.