

**Miscellany****VACCINATION FROM A NEWSPAPER'S  
POINT OF VIEW**

The Washington, Iowa, *Evening Journal* is not a metropolitan newspaper, either in size or in circulation, but it is a newspaper that feels its responsibility to its readers as a truthful purveyor of truth and wisdom. The following editorial is copied from a recent issue.

**OBJECT TO VACCINATION**

A recent article in the *Journal* touching upon the advisability of vaccination as a preventive of smallpox results in the receipt in the *Journal* office of a protest, the protest in the form of a copy of a magazine, the whole issue devoted to the condemnation of the practice of vaccination.

The magazine cites instances where vaccination has failed to prevent smallpox and gives instances also where vaccination has resulted in deaths. No doubt the citations are true. It is conceivable that among the many millions of people vaccinated there may be some who die from the effects. A pin scratch sometimes results in death to the person injured.

The statement is made in the publication sent us that vaccination kills more people in the countries in which it is largely practiced than does smallpox. That is logical. Vaccination may eventually eliminate smallpox entirely, or at least temper its effects down to the point where there will be no deaths from smallpox, but an occasional death still from the effects of vaccination.

The greatest possible care should be taken in the preparation of the vaccine. Absolute cleanliness and a virus free from other contaminations are essential if the process of vaccination is to be robbed of its dangers. Millions upon millions of people have been vaccinated, and as they have been vaccinated the menace of smallpox epidemics has decreased. There may be other causes for the decrease of virulent smallpox epidemics; we don't know.

But, the charge made in this magazine to the effect that the vaccination method of fighting smallpox is based upon the selfish desires of medical practitioners to fatten their pocket-books does not seem well founded to this writer. The same issues of the magazine cite instances where doctors who had been vaccinated took smallpox. Well, they took their own medicine. If they had not believed in vaccination why would they vaccinate themselves and carefully vaccinate their children and dearest friends?

The charge of dishonesty, selfishness, etc., is not well founded. Even doctors do not take the chance of murdering their best beloved for gain. Vaccination, or something, is depriving smallpox of its erstwhile questionable glory of being one of the most menacing of human contagions. Something is getting the smallpox "goat." Glory be for that!

The fact is that this attack upon vaccination is but one of the many attacks that is made by revolutionary zealots who are in for a general condemnation of medical science. Medical science makes its mistakes; has made them through all the centuries, but its course has been along an up-going trail. Medical science has made the waste places to blossom; has discovered the bases of many infections and removed them; brought joy and gladness to millions by its simple little ministrations; directed the processes that have made it possible for human beings to live in jungle lands and live comfortably and happily. Medical science will yet do much toward opening up the many millions of acres of tropical, miasmal lands that are not yet appraised at their full possible values; medical science does not hesitate to expose itself to danger, if necessary, in pioneering efforts to remove the danger; medical science does not seek out the easy places in which to make its bed but faces the danger zones in every corner of the earth and seeks to improve the health conditions everywhere. The mild little purgative, the lance, the forceps, the disinfectant, the anesthetic, all have been and are world blessings. They are the products of the ingenuity of medical science seeking to lessen the miseries of human life. They have accomplished all that.

**Book Notices**

**INSECTS AND HUMAN WELFARE.** An Account of the More Important Relations of Insects to the Health of Man, to Agriculture, and to Forestry. By Charles Thomas Brues, Assistant Professor of Economic Entomology, Bussey Institution, Harvard University. Cloth. Price, \$2.50. Pp. 104, with 42 illustrations. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1920.

The author is assistant professor of economic entomology in the Bussey Institution of Harvard University. It is clear, therefore, that he is concerned primarily with the study of insects as they affect the life of man from a material point of view. As he points out in his introduction, "there are many more different kinds of insects than there are of other animals, and it follows from this that they will cross our path at many places." Unfortunately, he says, most insects are not directly useful to man. Only two, the honey bee and the silkworm, have a definitely useful purpose. A large majority of insects are harmful and, so far as appears today, cannot be diverted to any useful purpose. They must therefore be destroyed. The first chapter, the one of greatest interest to the physician, is concerned with insects and public health. This chapter appeared in the *Scientific Monthly*; but for book purposes it has been amended, and numerous illustrations have been added. It is an excellent discussion of the cost of our insect competitors in terms both of lives and of cash. The second chapter deals with food supply, the third with forest insects, the fourth with household insects, and the concluding chapter with the outlook for the future. The most promising outlook which the entomologist can enjoy is the decreasing prevalence of several of the most important insect-borne diseases, but the author believes that other disease-bearing insects may be expected to extend their range in the same way that all other insects are migrating. "Unpleasant surprises are doubtless now hidden in little known parts of the world," he says, "from whence they may spread without warning." Professor Brues' book is printed in easily readable type, is artistically arranged, and all of the illustrations actually illustrate.

**THE ENDOCRINES.** By Samuel Wyllis Bandler, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Gynecology in the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital. Cloth. Price, \$7 net. Pp. 486. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, 1920.

Few subjects have attracted the interest of physicians and medical scientists to the extent that endocrinology has during recent years. There is something infinitely attractive in the mystery of the subject. Although there are textbooks and a vast periodical literature on the ductless glands, that which is unknown far surpasses in quantity the actually demonstrated facts relative to these structures. According to the preface, "what is known of the endocrine glands is bearing more than sufficient root to form a working basis for the understanding of numerous hereditary, physical and psychic questions. Only by therapy and by the use of the extracts of these glands," he says, "can we be led to definite conclusions." The latter view must be considered as representing pure empiricism, and as we read Dr. Bandler's book, we realize that his point of view is throughout an empiric one. This book is really not a textbook, it is a series of essays giving the author's view on all kinds of human problems—heredity, habits and instincts, emotions, phobias, disease of body and mind—all reduced to terms of plus or minus in regard to some endocrine function or other. Like the Freudians, the author constructs a system of philosophy of his own. He makes use of some of their views and phraseology: "Repression of an act or function associated with or supposed to complete an emotion implies that some endocrine outpouring, instead of being used in the completion of the act and in supplying the stimulus or energy associated with that act, is exerting its action elsewhere and in other channels so that internal combination is going on instead of an explosion" (page 16). Analogous to Freudian symbols is the nucleus of a syllabus of endocrine symbolism: "Judgment, wisdom, taste for books and literature, interest in the important problems, attract attention to a good anterior pituitary." "Fondness for children, normal libido, and feminine traits point to the posterior pituitary." Varicose veins suggest posterior

pituitary overactivity, as do uterine fibroids, "wanderlust," receding gums, pyorrhea, and exophthalmos, while a poor development of the outer half of the eyebrows implies a lack of thyroid. We all know the Freudian meaning of red. To fix its place as an endocrine symbol the author raises the question (page 271): "Why is it that a red rag irritates a bull?" Bandler's answer is that certain retinal cells in this animal by their autonomic nerve connections with the supra-renal glands transmit a stimulus which rouses these and associated glands with the resulting production of the instinct of pugnacity and the emotion of anger. (Incidentally, is the premise correct? Does a red rag irritate a bull any more than any other colored rag?) Tumors, benign and malignant, are all due to endocrine action, as are neuroses and psychoses except those caused by syphilis.

The author evidently expects this endocrine gospel to spread rapidly, for he ventures the prophecy that in five years there will be few new cases of mental defect, of insanity, tumors, diabetes and renal diseases. "When the next war comes, if it does at all, soldiers before going over the top will not be given alcohol: they will be given endocrine cocktails, and the adrenal cortex will be an important ingredient. And if the world in the near future administers to its diplomats, to its highest officials, to its legislators, and to its peoples the proper endocrines, especially anterior pituitary, and inhibits the adrenal cortex a little bit, there may be no more wars." In spite of (and partly because of) its many extravagances, parts of the book repay reading. The very bizarre way in which established clinical facts are correlated to fit new and unproved theories is stimulating to the imagination—a psychic field which grows hard, dry and covered with refuse if not occasionally plowed up. In justice to the author, it should be said that in applying his principles to his own field, that of gynecology, he uses his large clinical experience to good advantage and keeps in closer contact with the facts.

On the whole, however, the book is typical of the kind of scientific study which has made most physicians view the field of endocrinology with doubt and distrust. Progress cannot be made when theory so far outdistances that which is actually known.

LA EPIDEMIA DE GRIPPE DE 1918-19. Tesis Presentada para Optar al Título de Doctor en Medicina. Por Jose W. Tobias. Paper. Pp. 207. Buenos Aires: Libreria y Casa Editora de A. Guidi Buffarini, 1920.

The influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 is continually inspiring new studies which reflect the deep mark it made on the medical profession throughout the world. In this work, which received a prize from the Buenos Aires Medical School, the author has summarized the recent literature on influenza, combining at the same time observations of his own. Separate chapters are devoted to epidemiology, etiology, pathology and bacteriology, symptomatology, clinical types, and prophylaxis. Attention is called to the professional change toward this disease since the days of Broussais' *boutade*, "Grippe is an invention of penniless people and patientless physicians, who, having nothing else to do, have amused themselves creating this *farfadet*." Dr. Tobias does not consider Pfeiffer's bacillus as the specific agent of the disease, but a filtrable virus, as suggested by Nicolle and others. The most interesting chapter is the one devoted to pathology, comprising fifty-four pages, with twenty-five illustrations, in which the author reports his own and Dr. Ruiz' cases. Altogether the book is an interesting review of influenza as it appeared in Argentina.

REPPRESSED EMOTIONS. By Isador H. Coriat, M.D. Cloth. Price, \$2. Pp. 213. New York: Brentano's, 1920.

The author has said many things, the proof of which is not as clearly shown as is desirable. There is much that is merely time-consuming repetition. The chapter on repressed emotions in "primitive man" contains a number of very interesting observations, but beyond the statement that repressed emotions show themselves in the myths of primitive peoples, there are no noteworthy deductions. It seems stretching a point to affirm that psychoanalysis alone can cure a neurosis, as does the statement that dementia praecox is amenable to psychoanalysis. When the wonders of psychoanalysis are heralded as they are in the introduction, they deserve a more convincing thesis than is contained in this book.

## Medicolegal

### Complaint for Not Obeying Order of Health Officer—Proof of Order

(City of Roslyn v. Pavlinovich (Wash.), 192 Pac. R. 885)

The Supreme Court of Washington says that the complaint charged that on or about Oct. 23, 1918, the defendant committed the offense of violating Section 1 of Ordinance 161 of the city of Roslyn in that he did wilfully and unlawfully refuse, fail and neglect to comply with the legal order of the health officer of the city, in that he permitted people to congregate at his place of business at No. 12 Pennsylvania Avenue, in said city, and play cards therein, etc. Section 1 of the ordinance mentioned provides that it "shall be unlawful for any person to refuse, fail or neglect to comply with any legal order of the health officer" of the city. It seems plain to the court that the complaint very directly charged that the defendant violated that ordinance by failing and refusing to obey certain health orders and regulations made by the city health officer. That was sufficient to charge a misdemeanor. The complaint was sufficient.

However, before the court could determine whether the defendant violated the order of the health officer, it must know what that order was. The order was in writing. It was given to the constable, who caused the inhabitants to become acquainted with its contents. The health officer testified that it had been sent to the state health officer; that he had tried to secure it for the purpose of this trial, but that it had not been returned to him; that there was no copy of the original order, unless it was in the hands of the mayor. No effort was made to show whether the mayor had a copy. The court considers that the testimony failed to show any reasonable effort to have the order in court, and that it was error to allow oral testimony as to its contents, in consequence of which the defendant must be granted a new trial. Oral testimony of the contents of a written instrument is not admissible until a satisfactory explanation is given for the failure to present the writing itself. The rule is that a reasonable effort must have been made to obtain the written instrument. As to what will be considered a reasonable effort is dependent to a considerable extent on the importance, in the case, of the written instrument. Nothing was shown in this case except that the city health officer had tried to get the written order, and that it had not been sent to him. Reasonable effort means much more than that. The court is entitled to know what was done, what effort was made. Likewise, it was error to permit the city attorney to testify that he had written to the state health officer for the original order, and had received a letter from him stating that it was not on file with him, no sufficient excuse being given for not having the letter itself in court.

### Validity of Contract for Services

(Butler v. Oldham (Ark.), 224 S. W. R. 985)

The Supreme Court of Arkansas, in affirming a judgment for \$150 in favor of the plaintiff, a physician, against the administrator of the estate of a Dr. Abbott, says that Dr. Abbott became seriously ill with pneumonia, and was removed to a hospital, where he remained until the date of his death under the constant care of nurses and two physicians. The plaintiff and Dr. Abbott were personal friends. During the afternoon of the day before Dr. Abbott died, one of the nurses at the hospital telephoned to the plaintiff, stating that Dr. Abbott asked him to come to see him. After finishing his professional calls for the day, the plaintiff procured an automobile and driver and went to the place where Dr. Abbott was, arriving at about 11 o'clock at night. He went immediately to see Dr. Abbott at the hospital, and remained with him until he died the next morning at about 7 o'clock. After the plaintiff reached the bedside of Dr. Abbott, the latter drew a check for \$1,000, payable to the plaintiff, and gave it to the man who accompanied the plaintiff, with instructions to deliver the check subsequently to the plaintiff as compensation for his services in attending him from then until his death,