

and thus placing before the pharmacists of this country the important data we have now under consideration.

There are in the United States about 35,000 practising dentists, about 40,000 retail druggists, and about 150,000 physicians. In spite of this army of practitioners there yet remains the fact that the masses are still woefully wanting in proper appreciation of the value of the teeth, and the majority (a very large majority) is ignorant of the dangers incident to their neglect.

SNAKE BITES.

One thousand two hundred and forty-four human beings died of snake bites in the Central Provinces of India last year (says the *Standard*). It is seldom that a European is hurt by a poisonous snake, because he wears boots and trousers; but the native, with his naked limbs, is always subject to the attacks of a hurt or frightened reptile. The most ready method of treatment has hitherto been the application of potassium permanganate, but it is now very doubtful whether this has been of any value. Colonel Dennys, Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, has made a report on the history of the treatment, and has found that very few so-called snake bites can be properly certified. The patients have no doubt been bitten, but there is seldom any evidence showing that the snake has been a venomous one. A harmless snake may have inflicted the wound, and some special "cure" may get the credit of having saved a life that was never in danger.—*Pharmaceutical Journal & Pharmacist*.

DOES IT PAY TO ATTEND ASSOCIATION MEETINGS?

Does it pay the druggist for the time, trouble and expense involved to attend the meetings of his State or national association? The question might just as well be asked if it pays to eat, drink and sleep and keep on living; the answer depends upon what one gets out of life and what is considered satisfactory payment for the trouble of keeping alive; so it is with attendance at association meetings. As a people we Americans are too much inclined to estimate the value of efforts and things by a money standard; that is, if asked if a certain thing "pays" we base our answer on the return in dollars and cents. Of course dollars and cents are very useful and absolutely necessary in this present state of civilization, but they are only a convenient means of exchanging work and ideas for food, clothing, etc., they are not a measure of value for the real things that make life worth living, and the saddest mistake a man can make is to set up money as a standard by which to measure the value of his work and of himself. But, if there are any pharmacists who are so bound by circumstances that they must measure every act by the return in dollars and cents, no better investment can be made than that involved in attending association meetings. The man who cannot get new ideas and learn better ways of doing things by associating with the men who are doing things, in the informal ways of association meetings, is hopeless.—*American Druggist*.