

tity to make the preparation dangerous in the hands of the laity. This is a question which is eminently one for the medical profession to determine, but I doubt whether any commission of medical men could be found to agree upon a report.

When we come to the fourth instruction, we find more specific directions for carrying out a line of work similar to that already being done by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association. To the extent that the work of this commission can be made to supplement and aid the work of the Council, it will undoubtedly be helpful. It is sincerely to be hoped that the new commission and the Council will be able to make arrangements whereby their work will be harmonious and so that they may help each other, avoiding unnecessary duplications.

In conclusion, I would call your attention to the fact that Dr. F. E. Stewart last year proposed before this branch just such cooperation between the A. M. A. and the A. Ph. A. as is in part at least contemplated here.

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#### THE MINNEAPOLIS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.\*

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F. E. STEWART, M. D.

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The time limit necessarily imposed by the length of our program makes it impossible for me to report even in general terms, the proceedings of the American Medical Association, of interest to pharmacists, which transpired during the recent annual meeting at Minneapolis. It is assumed that most of the work done by the Association of interest to pharmacists occurs in the Section of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. However, reference to the proceedings of other sections shows that much was done at the last meeting worthy of consideration by pharmacists, in addition to the work of the section on Pharmacology.

Our friend Wilbert generally succeeds in saying something worth listening to. What he said about the carelessness of the retail druggists had a very bitter flavor. We are so accustomed to taking our medicine in pleasant forms that the old-fashioned medicinal preparations which our fathers regarded of therapeutic value just in proportion to their disagreeable nature are not longer in vogue. Therefore, when friend Wilbert undertook to administer bitter medicine which he believed would prove of therapeutic value in the cure of many complaints with which modern pharmacy is afflicted, Professor Remington, in particular, objected seriously to the dose, and manifested his disapproval by a most vigorous protest.

I have not time to comment upon Mr. Wilbert's paper, but I would advise pharmacists generally to read it. Those pharmacists who are in the habit of being exceedingly accurate in their methods will be horrified on reading Mr. Wilbert's statements, and will wonder if he is correct or careless in what he

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\* Read before the Philadelphia Branch, Oct. 17, 1913.

said. Those who are guilty of carelessness will read the paper with conflicting emotions. His words will fall like the seed of the sower—some will fall upon good ground and bring forth an abundant harvest; other seed will fall by the wayside and the fowls of the air will gather it up; other seed will fall on stony places, and among weeds, and the weeds will spring up and choke the seed, so there will be no harvest.

Personally, I can only say that my experience in the retail drug business, comprising seven or eight years' time spent behind the counters of some of the leading drug-stores in Philadelphia and New York, would lead me to believe that pharmacists, as a rule, are exceedingly careful men. Among the forty thousand retailers in the United States, there are doubtless plenty of ignorant, careless pharmacists, but I hope that I am right in believing that they are rare exceptions to the rule.

Considerable interest was displayed in the subject of oral asepsis, and the care of the mouth and teeth. Dr. Joseph Head, of this city, contributed an interesting paper on the treatment of pyorrhoea alveolaris, or Rigg's disease, to the Section on Stomatology. His success with bacterial vaccines, aided by local treatment, employing for the latter purpose bi-fluoride of ammonium, containing 10 percent hydro-fluoric acid, was reported in detail. Dr. C. P. Brown, of this city, who did Dr. Head's bacteriological work, reported his findings.

It appears that some seven different kinds of micro-organisms may be usually found in the mouth, where they live as saprophytes, feeding on waste matter from the food, and doing no harm. They are mess-mates, and as they live at the same table, are called commensals. If for any reason, the resisting power of the tissues of the mouth are reduced below par, or a strain of one of these micro-organisms of a highly virulent nature finds access to the mouth, one or more of these organisms become parasites, and live at the expense of the tissues.

By the term "tissues" I include the teeth and alveolar processes as well as the mucous membranes of the mouth. The tissues now commence to break down, and pus-pockets appear around the teeth, which gives to the disease the name pyorrhoea, or pus-running disease. Examination of these pus-pockets shows them to be loaded with bacteria.

Dr. Head utilizes the hypodermic syringe to draw the pus from the abscesses at the root of the teeth, thus assuring himself that the pus obtained is free from contamination by extraneous germs, and from this pus Dr. Brown prepared the autogenous vaccines used by Dr. Head. The injection of these vaccines into the patient's body stimulated the mechanism of immunity, thus aiding Nature in her attempts to repel the invading bacteria, so that when the pus-pockets were destroyed by the fluoride, the gums were enabled to heal up and the teeth again became firm in the mouth. The cure of Rigg's disease has at last been discovered, provided the immunity thus obtained against the pathogenic organisms remains sufficiently permanent to warrant such a statement. Time only can determine the final results.

I can close my few remarks in no better manner than by calling your attention to the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, in relation to dental preparations, the results of which have been published within the last two months. Dentistry has secured recognition as a branch of medicine, by associa-

ting itself with medicine as dentistry is considered a branch of surgery. Dental therapeutics is taking its place as part of the work of the dental surgeon. Original research on the part of the dental surgeon is having its influence on dental pharmacy. The work of the Section on Stomatology should therefore be watched by pharmacists who aim to keep themselves abreast of the times in regard to dental preparations.

The Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, by exposing "fakisms" in dental therapeutics, is greatly aiding the work of dental pharmacy. Pharmacists should keep in touch with the work of the Council, and refrain from recommending fake dental preparations to the public.

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#### "CURES," FOREIGN AND NATIVE.

When you are cured in English you are well; when you are cured in German or Italian, you may still be ill; you may even die. An Italian physician, we are told in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (Chicago, April 26), was recently made to say, when his article was translated into English, "I cured ten typhoid patients last month and six of them died." What he really said was that he had treated ten patients. The word "cure" in German or Italian means simply "treatment"; this is the original sense, from which we have wandered somewhat in our English use. This fact often causes confusion and misapprehension. Says the paper named above:

"Many newspapers are hasty or careless in announcing the discovery in Germany of some method of treatment more or less new, and not infrequently misinformation is given the public through failure to keep in mind the actual meaning of one little word. The German word *Kur* does not mean 'cure,' although it is not an uncommon thing to find it so translated into English. 'To cure' in English means 'to restore to health; to effect a cure'; but in other languages it means merely to apply 'a method of remedial treatment of disease; medical or hygienic care; method of medical treatment.' The German word for 'restoration to health' is *Heilung*, not *Kur*. The Latin word *cura* means merely 'care,' a shade of meaning which is preserved in the derived term 'curator.'"—*Literary Digest*.