

spermatozoon appears, however, to have a determining influence.

As a general conclusion Professor Morgan considers that it may be a futile attempt to try to discover any one influence that has a deciding influence for all kinds of eggs. "Here, as elsewhere in organic nature, different stimuli may determine indifferent species which of the possibilities that exist shall become realized." In a word, instead of a simple, it is a very complex problem, and all our supposed knowledge on the subject fails to stand the rigid test of scientific examination by the trained, modern biologists, whose wider knowledge of the lower animals has enabled them to recognize sources of error in previously suggested solutions of this attractive but inscrutable mystery.

Medical News.

CONNECTICUT.

November Infectious Diseases.—During November one case of smallpox was reported; 643 cases of measles, with 2 deaths; 132 cases of scarlet fever, with one death; 182 cases of diphtheria, with 4 deaths; 86 cases of whooping cough, with one death; 79 cases of typhoid fever, with one death, and 29 cases of consumption, with 20 deaths.

National Guard Changes Suggested.—At an informal meeting of the surgeons of the Connecticut National Guard, New Haven, December 9, it was decided to recommend to the military authorities that a medical department independent of the regimental medical officers be formed, that an additional surgeon be added to each regiment, and that the hospital corps consist of ten men to a regiment.

November Deaths.—During November 1,167 deaths were reported, 43 more than in the previous month, 84 more than in November, 1902, and 109 more than the average for the last ten Novembers. The death-rate was equivalent to an annual mortality of 15.1 per 1,000 for the large towns, 14.2 per 1,000 for the small towns, or 14.9 per 1,000 for the entire state. Deaths from infectious diseases were 236, or 20.2 per cent. of the total mortality.

ILLINOIS.

Student Dies.—Miss Caroline Beardsley, Highland Park, a student in the medical department of the University of Illinois, died suddenly from kidney disease, December 14.

New Buildings.—The building committee of the county board has decided to erect at Dunning a cottage for working patients and a new morgue and pathologic laboratory; and at the Cook County Hospital a children's building.

Appointments.—The Board of County Commissioners of Cook County has approved the appointment of Dr. Charles Whalen to the County Hospital, and the reappointment of Dr. Vaclav H. Podstata, as superintendent of the Cook County Institutions, Dunning, and of Dr. Warren H. Hunter as county physician.

Personal.—Dr. William J. Cheaney, Petersburg, has been appointed county physician of Menard County.—Dr. John T. Miller, Decatur, has been re-elected county physician of Macon County.—Dr. G. W. Rohr, Rockford, will be the guest of honor at the annual banquet of the Winnebago County Medical Society in February next.—Dr. Herman J. Huyett, Milan, is the dean of the profession of Rock Island County.—Dr. Frank B. Lucas, Peoria, has been elected county physician of Peoria County.

KENTUCKY.

District Physicians Elected.—Drs. Palmer G. Keeney, Edwin Wendt and Oscar A. Frickman have been elected district physicians of Newport.

Diphtheria and Smallpox.—Cave City reports 10 or 15 cases of smallpox, and at Richmond the public and private schools have been closed on account of the disease.—Diphtheria is said to be raging in Bellville, near Owensboro, and in the southern portion of Bracken County.

College Hospital Must Pay Taxes.—As a result of the decision by Judge Miller of the Jefferson Circuit Court, the hospital of the Kentucky School of Medicine must pay taxes. It

was the contention of the college authorities that the hospital should be exempt because of the large number of charity patients cared for annually.

NEW YORK.

Smallpox.—The state health department reports on December 16 that smallpox was present at 12 places not noted in the report of December 5, when a list of 33 localities was published, in which smallpox existed.

Steel Company to Erect Hospital.—The Lackawanna Steel Company is about to erect in connection with the steel plant at Stony Point, a suburb of Buffalo, a hospital for the treatment of the maimed and wounded in their employ.

Dr. Chapin Sentenced.—On November 24, Dr. Henry W. Chapin, Findley Lake, convicted of having caused death by a criminal operation, was sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year, nor more than three years in the state penitentiary at Auburn.

Buffalo Deaths.—The monthly report of the department of health for November shows an annual death rate of 12 per 1,000. The principal causes of death were as follows: Consumption, 36; diphtheria, 11; typhoid fever, 8; debility, 28; alcoholism, 10; cancer, 22; apoplexy, 19; meningitis, 9; endocarditis, 7; vulvular heart disease, 25; pneumonia, 41; appendicitis, 6; cirrhosis of the liver, 6; gastritis, 8; gastroenteritis, 8; diabetes, 3; nephritis, 23; uremia, 5, and violence, 41. The total deaths for November were 438, as compared to 396 for November, 1902.

New York City.

Pneumonia and Tuberculosis.—The vital statistics for the year show 9,260 deaths from pneumonia, 13 per cent. of the total mortality, and 7,570 deaths from tuberculosis.

Alcohol and Opium Inebriety.—Dr. T. D. Crothers of Hartford, Conn., will deliver a course of four lectures on "Inebriety from Alcohol, Opium and Other Narcotics," at the New York School of Clinical Medicine, Jan. 5 and 6, 1904, to which the public is invited.

Gifts and Bequests.—President Abraham Abraham of the Jewish Hospital announced at a recent meeting that he had received a donation of \$25,000 from an individual too modest to give his name, dependent on the raising of a similar sum within a year.—By the will of the late James Gracie, \$5,000 is devised to the Orthopedic Hospital of Manhattan for the endowment of a bed, and \$25,000 for the general endowment fund.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Optician, Not Physician.—H. S. Fish, an optician of Sioux Falls, who was recently arrested on the charge of practicing medicine without a license, was discharged without trial, as it was shown that he had not violated the medical practice act.

Diphtheria.—The diphtheria epidemic at Parker is subsiding. Fourteen cases occurred, with three deaths. The quarantine against the city has been raised.—Diphtheria has appeared among the Indian children at the reservation day school at Ironwood Creek, Rosebud Agency, and the school has been closed.

Medical Society Elections.—The Watertown District Medical Society held its annual meeting in Watertown, December 8, and elected the following officers: President, Dr. Edwin T. Ramsey, Clark; vice-president, Dr. Oscar G. Frink, South Shore; secretary-treasurer, Dr. James B. Vaughan, Castlewood, and censors, Drs. Hans M. Finnerud, Henry H. Clark and Robert F. Campbell, all of Watertown. The next meeting will be held Feb. 9, 1904.—Mitchell District Medical Society met at Chamberlain, December 3, and elected the following officers: President, Dr. Wellington J. Mayhim; vice-president, Dr. Frederick Treon, Chamberlain; secretary, Dr. E. Frank Reamer, Mitchell; treasurer, Dr. William R. Ball, Mitchell; censor for the year, Dr. Thomas B. Smiley, Mount Vernon, and delegate to the state society, Dr. Roscoe H. Goodrich, Chamberlain.

TENNESSEE.

Banquet to Dr. Hill.—The Chattanooga Medical Association gave a banquet, November 6, in honor of Dr. T. S. Hill of Montgomery, Ala.

Smallpox.—Four new cases are reported in one family living near Mickle's Mill, Knox County.—Franklin reports 2 cases and has quarantine regulations in force.—Knox County has 15 cases under treatment at the isolation hospital.—From June 27 to the end of November there were 1,839 cases in the state, with 36 deaths. Hamilton County had 783 cases, and Knox County 186 cases.

Elections.—Henderson County Medical Society met at Lexington, December 1, elected Dr. James C. Stinson, Center Point, president; Dr. Daniel W. Bradfield, Poplar Spring, second vice-president, and James M. Arnold, Lexington, treasurer, and re-elected Dr. John H. Howard, Lexington, first vice-president; Dr. C. H. Johnston, Lexington, secretary, and Drs. John R. Muse, John L. Murray and R. H. Davidson, all of Lexington, censors.—At its December meeting the Jefferson County Medical Society elected the following officers: President, Dr. Isaac McC. Tittsworth, Jefferson City, president; Dr. Samuel W. Fain, Dandridge, vice-president; Dr. B. F. Brown, Mount Horeb, secretary, and Dr. Payne A. Tinsley, Dandridge, treasurer.

GENERAL.

Congress of Arts and Science of the St. Louis Exposition.—The following medical men of Europe have accepted an invitation to attend and take part in the above congress: T. Clifford Allbutt, Cambridge (internal medicine); Professor Richelot, Paris (gynecology); Sir Felix Semon, London (otology and laryngology); Sir Lauder Brunton, London (therapeutics); Major F. W. Ross, Liverpool (tropical medicine); Professor Theodor Escherich, Vienna (pediatrics).

FOREIGN.

Celebration of the Decennial of the Roentgen Rays.—The tenth anniversary of the discovery of the Röntgen rays will be celebrated next spring at Berlin by a special Röntgen congress and exhibition, at which Röntgen will be the guest of honor. Further particulars may be learned by application to Dr. Immelmann, Lützowstr, 72 Berlin, W. Germany.

LONDON LETTER.

The Health of Bombay.

The annual report of the executive health officer for the year 1902 contains much information of interest. The statistics are based on the census return of 1901. The birth rate was 22.67 per 1,000 against 17.42 during 1901. The mortality from plague began its seasonal rise in January and reached its maximum on April 3 and then declined. There was a decrease in the number of deaths from plague in all communities except Europeans and negro Africans. From August the plague mortality rose gradually to the end of the year. The government has, after careful consideration, done away with the compulsory measures and introduced voluntary ones directing the health department to follow a persuasive policy. Inoculation is not in favor, the people of Bombay have lost all faith in its protective effects. During the year 288 deaths from smallpox occurred, as compared with 159 in 1901. The increase is accounted for by the number of unvaccinated people who went to Bombay from the Portuguese territory and soon after arrival were found to be suffering from the disease. Four thousand, five hundred and eighteen deaths were due to fevers; the highest number, viz., 3,847, is attributed to remittent fever. This is 3,419 less than in the previous year and 1,938 less than the average of the preceding 5 years. To typhoid fever 89 deaths were ascribed, being 27 more than during the previous year and 42 more than the average of the last 5 years; 483 deaths were due to ague, and 190 more than the average of the last 5 years. The mortality from fever rose and fell with the mortality from plague. The divisional health officers instructed their staffs in the methods of distinguishing the various mosquitoes and larvæ and a list of places was made out where anopheles larvæ were found. The *Anopheles culicifacies* and *Alopesis listoni* are said to be the only malaria-bearing mosquitoes known in Bombay at present. Advice is being given as to the best-known means of preventing the breeding of anopheles.

PARIS LETTER.

Congress of School Hygiene.

A congress was held in Paris, November 1, through the efforts of physicians and families, who are desirous of ameliorating the conditions of school life, and changing some of the methods followed in the interests of school hygiene. Dr. Legendre, who is deeply interested in all such questions, described the characteristics that a school physician should possess. It should be noted that every large school in France has a physician of its own, and Legendre would like to see the rôle of the latter made more important; he said the construction of a school should not be undertaken until a medical man has been consulted. Special rooms should be reserved for contagious diseases. All such diseases that are of parasitic origin, adenoids, eye or ear troubles, scoliosis, dental decay,

various nervous diseases should be inquired into by the physician. A large number of cases of deficient intellectual development are due to ill health. The hours of study and recreation should be inquired into also.

Correspondence.

A New Operation for Retrodisplacements.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Dec. 15, 1903.

To the Editor:—In a recent issue of THE JOURNAL you publish a brief abstract of a paper by Alexandroff describing "A new operation for retroflexion or retroversion." The operation is one which I have been doing for the past eight years, and which I have described or referred to during discussions in the Section on Obstetrics and Diseases of Women, first at the meeting at Philadelphia, again at Denver, and again at New Orleans. I have no doubt the work of Alexandroff is entirely independent of mine, at the same time I do not believe there can be any question as to the priority of the operation.

328 E. State Street.

F. F. LAWRENCE.

Deaths.

Edward Fridenberg, M.D. College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, 1878, a member of the American Medical Association; New York State Medical Association; American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otological Society; American Otological Society; New York Academy of Medicine; New York County Medical Society, New York Ophthalmological Society and New York Otological Society; ophthalmologic and aural surgeon to the German Hospital, president of the Harlem Medical Society, died from apoplexy at his residence in New York City, December 9, aged 48.

Israel B. Washburn, M.D. Rush Medical College, Chicago, 1861, of Rensselaer, Ind., one of the most prominent physicians of Northern Indiana, a member of the American Medical Association, Kankakee Valley Medical Society, a surgeon in the Civil War, and in 1872 a member of the state legislature, died at Valparaiso, Ind., from malignant disease of the liver, after a surgical operation, December 11, aged 65.

Hugh Burford, M.D. Savannah (Ga.) Medical College, 1879, a member of the American Medical Association, and the Medical Association of Georgia, acting assistant surgeon U. S. P. H. and M.-H. Service; surgeon for the Southern Railway, and member of the Association of Southern Railway Surgeons, died at his home in Brunswick, Ga., December 7.

Alfred H. Brundage, M.D. Albany (N. Y.) Medical College, 1856, a member of the American Medical Association, surgeon of the Thirty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War, died at his home in Xenia, December 10, from uremia, after a short illness, aged 68.

Lewis A. Frost, M.D. Detroit Medical College, 1875, from 1881 to 1895, assistant physician at the Illinois Central Hospital for the Insane, Jacksonville, Ill., died at his home in that city, December 14, from paralysis, after an invalidism of five years, aged 61.

Elisha Hall Bridges, M.D. Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, 1866, for many years president of the St. Lawrence County Medical Society, died at his home in Ogdensburg, N. Y., October 9, from acute Bright's disease, aged 62.

Edward F. C. Rembe, M.D. St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1891, of Lincoln, Ill., died at the Deaconess' Hospital in that city, December 14, after an illness of three weeks, from septicemia, aged 49.

Albert Moser, M.D. Harvard University Medical School, Boston, 1899, who served throughout the Spanish-American War in China and the Philippines, died at his home in Lima, December 9, aged 33.

Wilfred Stedman Fisher, M.D. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1903, house surgeon at the University Hospital, Ann Arbor, died November 30 at Ann Arbor, from typhoid fever, aged 26.

Timothy O'Connor, M.D. College of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 1890, of Maple Lake, Minn., died in Denver, from consumption, December 11, aged 45.

T. M. Gwin, M.D., assistant surgeon in the Confederate service during the Civil War, died at his home in Blacksburg, S. C., from dropsy, December 9, after a long illness, aged 64.