

Oregon—David Bruer, Portland.
Pennsylvania—William A. Pearson, Philadelphia.
Rhode Island—W. M. Muncy, Providence.
South Dakota—E. W. Feige, Huron.
Tennessee—W. A. Boies, Knoxville.
Texas—H. B. Stiles, Waco.
Utah—Earnest P. Mills, Ogden.
Vermont—Earnest P. Mills, Ogden.
Virginia—Ralph S. Faris, Richmond.
Washington—Weldon E. Young, Seattle.
West Virginia—William R. Andrews, Mannington.
Wisconsin—John E. Guy, Milwaukee.

MATERIA MEDICA MEETING.

The regular meeting of the section on Homœopathic Materia Medica and Therapeutics was held at the Hahnemann College on April 21st. Dr. Theodore J. Gramm presided. The minutes (partial) were read by the secretary and approved. Dr. Gramm then asked for noteworthy cases and several were given. Dr. Theo. J. Gramm reported that of a parturient female, four months gone, who had been under old school care at a very well known institution but seemingly without benefit. The case had a vomiting of nearly everything. Was pitifully anemic and wasted. Flickering before the eyes, frontal headache, pains in the stomach, swollen feet and a convulsive state were all present, but singularly enough no albumen was disclosed on testing for same. The amount of leucorrhœal discharge was very profuse indeed. It was of a chafing nature. *Cuprum arsenicosum* 2nd decimal, was given and Dr. Gramm thinks at first at two hour intervals. Later, however, this was dropped to four times daily. An inflammatory state of the cervical canal was treated by a strong solution of potassium permanganate. In four days' time the condition had so regressed that the girl was actually eating very well on a regular diet, and some of her normal color had returned. *Case of C. W. Karsner*. Woman whom he had seen only the night before. Severe occipital headache, ate nothing and a dribbling urination with unconsciousness. No temperature. Pupillary dilatation. Belladonna and gelsemium given in alter-

nation. Rapid cure of patient. *Case of T. H. Carmichael.* Boy of 19 years had developed a beginning lead poisoning with cramps in the belly and legs. Opium 2x every thirty minutes with a tapering off as the condition of the boy moderated. Cure by the next day. *Case of Harry S. Weaver.* A case of acute follicular followed by a subsequent œdema. Condition began with high fever, very bad headache and backache. It was twenty-four hours before the cryptic patchy tonsils were in evidence visually. Another medical man had treated the case at this time. Argyrol had been used in a topical way and something had been given to control the fever. Singularly enough the case got worse and worse. The spots in the tonsils had cleared but the headache, the painful legs and the asthenia kept up. After a very discouraging three weeks the limbs were in a very bad way from œdema, which had started in after the tenth day of illness. The skin was so very swollen and shiny that it would actually reflect objects. This terrible œdema was accompanied with agonizing pain. The medical attendant had been giving bicarbonate of soda thrice daily. Arsenic and iron were also prescribed. Under the care of Dr. Weaver, however, the case rapidly resolved. Being led in his choice by the great redness, the marked swelling and the shiny appearance he had prescribed Apis mellifica 3x. On the very first night the patient slept nearly all through the same. Case mended in fact with a splendid resolution. Woman much pleased with the result. *Cases of Joseph M. Caley.* The doctor referred to four cases, urinary in their type. He spoke of the use of Rhus aromatica in such cases. The dribbling may, of course, be either during the day or night-time. He uses the preparation in five drop doses of the tincture four times a day. *Case of D. Macfarlan.* A case of a young man of middle age who had seen rather severe service in the U. S. Navy. Had incoercible vomiting. Was under old school care; had his stomach washed out and was looked into after the most approved traditional fashion. Vomiting kept up and was told to go or went home on his own volition, from the hospital. After talking it over with his physician Dr. Macfarlan advised him to give apomorphin, which was given in the 6th hand dynamization with fine effect. Man was of a sensitive nature, and had burning feelings in the bowels.

The paper of the evening was read by the secretary, and it was a resume of the influenza epidemic. Dr. Guy B. Stearns, of New York City, had issued a questionnaire to members of the I. H. A., and the data thus obtained was put into a small brochure and mailed to the members themselves by Dr. Stearns. There was in all seventy-nine responses. It was notably difficult to obtain replies from physicians, especially in such busy times, and the tallying sent in probably represents the usual average of the members of the I. H. A. In fact, subsequent conversations held by Dr. Stearns with many who did not answer shows about the same average of deaths as given in the compilation. The number of cases treated and the number of deaths are as follows: Cases treated, 16,913; deaths, 67; mortality, 3.95 per thousand. A resume of the general treatment given in these cases was such as is almost universally recommended, to wit., plenty of air, no food or only liquid food during the first day or so until natural hunger returns, no solid food until temperature is normal, plenty of water, and absolute quiet in bed until at least three days after the temperature has become normal.

Then, as important as all the rest, the single remedy having the closest similarity of symptoms; this remedy should be given in one of the standard homœopathic dynamizations. The use of all palliatives, sedatives, cathartics, stimulants, etc., is condemned as not merely useless but thoroughly harmful. Aspirin and the other coal tar products are condemned as causing great numbers of unnecessary deaths. The omnipresent aspirin is the most pernicious drug of all. It beguiles, as Dr. Stearns so well states, by its quick relief of pain, a relief which is but meretricious. In severe cases aspirin weakens the heart, depresses the vital forces and increases morbidity; in mild cases it makes convalescence slower. In all cases it masks the symptoms and renders immeasurably more difficult the selection of the curative remedy. Apparently aspirin bears no curative relation to any disease, and it ought to be prohibited. The opinion is unanimously expressed that if the similar remedy be given early enough no case of influenza need die, except in extreme old age or where grave organic conditions already exist. Not only will the disease be cured by the sufficiently early administering of the simillimum, but the cough, the pain and other distressing symptoms will be re-

lieved with considerable promptness. The remedy indications read out by the secretary were compiled from all the reports sent in from the standard materia medicas, and from the general clinical experience of all good prescribers. Thanks are due especially to Dr. C. M. Boger, to Dr. Royal and E. S. Hayes for valuable additions and suggestions.

DONALD MACFARLAN, *Secretary.*

**“THE BUSINESS SIDE OF THE PRACTICE
OF MEDICINE.”**

J. W. Webb, M. D., Indianapolis, Ind.

The question has so often arisen in my mind, why is it so many of the physicians, splendid doctors, enjoying large extensive practices, are financial failures?

I am not egotistical enough to assume to answer this question fully, for I fully realize that I, too, have my limitations, and have often failed to seize the opportunity that presented itself, which if undertaken would have meant success where my course led to failure.

Now why is it the average physician is a poor business man? In the first place I should lay the responsibility at the feet of our teachers in medical colleges. During all my course in medical colleges, I do not remember a single professor ever hinting at the business side of the profession. In fact, one of my most brilliant professors, holding the head of one of the chairs, an author of a number of text-books, died during my college course, and imagine the students' surprise when a few days after the funeral they were taking up a subscription to meet a mortgage on his home so that his wife and family might not be put out of their home.

I remember at one of our State meetings Dr. Pratt telling of his dream of a medical college, so equipped that it would be prepared to teach all the different agencies that could be used to heal the sick, such as allopathy, homœopathy, eclecticism, suggestion, electricity, osteopathy, chiroprathy, etc., and I would add to that a thorough business course making it compulsory upon every student that he take this course before receiving his