

Practical Points.

To Abort a Felon.

It is claimed in the *Medical Fortnightly* by Dr. J. Rilus Eastman, Professor of Surgery in Central College of Physicians and Surgeons, of Indianapolis, that a commencing felon will always be aborted by the local application of alcohol under perfect air exclusion. Cotton is saturated with alcohol and placed about the affected part, and a thin rubber finger-stall applied over all. Seventy-two hours usually suffices to give relief or even to effect a cure. He learned this in Professor Von Bergmann's polyclinic in 1897, since which time he has not had occasion to lance a single felon, the treatment of which was begun in time by this method.

The Disposal of Typhoid Stools.

A criticism on hospitals that was voiced recently by a prominent surgeon is, says the *National Hospital Record*, one that is well worth serious thought on the part of hospital superintendents, members of boards of managers, members of hospital medical staffs, nurses, and indeed everyone who has to do with the professional care of the sick or the manufacture of hospital appliances. This surgeon said that for years he had tried to persuade hospital authorities to provide some method of burning typhoid stools, and to forever abandon the method of disposing of them by emptying them into the sewer, to be carried on to help in creating the disease in the inhabitants of the town thirty miles down the river. Everyone knows that typhoid germs are carried by ice which is shipped from place to place as well as by water. It is also well known that ordering drinking water to be boiled, while it reduces the risk does not prevent infection, inasmuch as fresh fruits and vegetables, or the water in which butter or any uncooked food is washed may contain the germs, and it is scarcely possible for a family or an institution to boil all water used in the preparation of food. Therefore the surest way of lessening the disease is by disposing of the typhoid stool in such a way that there is absolutely no possibility of that stool causing any further disease. That can only be accomplished by burning, and therein the difficulty lies. It is so easy to just wash the stool down the sewer, immersed, to be sure, in some disinfectant, which is hardly likely to have accomplished its work before being consigned to the sewer, where the water dilutes it and stops further action. The difficulties about cremation of such matter are many. It would be impossible to arrange for burning, unless some means of thus disposing of stools, or preparing to dispose of them, was provided on every floor of the hospital or adjacent to every fever ward. The ordinary crematory used for dressings would not answer the purpose, because the urine that is mixed with stools cannot be separated. The so-called "odourless" closets or commodes are not odourless. A receptacle near each ward that would permit of the stool being mixed with sawdust, that could be saturated later with some inflammable material when consigned to the crematory, was

suggested, but there must be a better way than that if we can find it. The discovery or invention of a means of preventing or lessening typhoid fever, by making it impossible for the stools of hospital patients to create or perpetuate the disease, is one that will deserve to rank with the best achievements of hospital work of the age.

Reckoned in dollars and cents it is estimated that the people of the United States are paying annually a tribute of ninety million dollars to ignorance and carelessness regarding a disease which is generally admitted to be preventable. Hospital physicians, superintendents, managers, nurses, must shoulder the blame for some of this disease, waste of money, and loss of life. Is there not now in some of our hospitals some inventive genius who can devise for hospitals a safe and convenient method of disposing of typhoid stools by burning? The man or woman who does this will deserve to have his name immortalised. There are difficulties, but difficulties are not reasons. It is probably true in this matter, as elsewhere that "where there is a will there is a way."

Under the Weather.

In a recent book on Weather Influences, Professor Edwin Dexter, of the University of Illinois, has, according to a contemporary, proved that a close connection occurs between the weather and conduct. He was led to undertake this investigation by being impressed with the remarkable fluctuations in the conduct of school children, and he seems to have proved that there is a certain relation between the conditions of the weather and the condition of the nervous system. In his opinion the term "under the weather" as applied to a lack of feeling of normal well-being has a real scientific basis. It has long been known that the weather has a greater or less effect on persons in good health and that in certain diseases it exerts a potent influence, but Professor Dexter generalises from his experience in this field of investigation to show that children in school and workmen in factories are more or less influenced by the state of the weather and that they both do good or bad work according as the weather is, good or bad. Professor Dexter has also proved that different climate has different effects at different times on the same person, and he hopes by continuing his studies to finally show more intimately than has yet been determined, the relationship between nervous diseases and proper climates.

The Value of Fruit.

Dr. Sharp, says the *Medical Annual*, holds that ripe fruit, besides its laxative and other virtues, contains in various degrees a digestive ferment for proteids similar to pepsine though feebler. The digestive action of pineapple is well known. Coagulated egg albumen, placed between layers of ripe strawberries, pears, cherries, or sliced oranges, or to a less extent, apples, will according to Dr. Sharp be slowly digested when kept at summer heat. There are thus good reasons for eating fruit at the end of a hearty meal. Cooking the fruit destroys this digestive power.

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