

these notes are kept secret, in order not to damage the proprietors. The Congress of Tuberculosis, held in Paris in 1905, passed a resolution asking that the public authorities be given the right and the means of condemning all buildings dangerous for the health of the inhabitants, but this resolution has, up to the present, had no legislative sanction. Moreover, there may be some question whether the destruction of unhealthful buildings would in itself insure the hygiene of dwellings, for the building license, which in other countries, in England especially, is burdened with many restrictions in the public interests, is with us a mere formality, so that the buildings which replace the unhealthful ones destroyed may be just as defective. All our legislation on this point really needs thorough revision.

Sectarian Spirit and Medicine

There exists in France, in addition to the colleges and schools (*Facultés et Ecoles*) of medicine which depend on the government, an establishment which is independent of state control, that is the free or catholic school of medicine and pharmacy (*Faculté libre ou catholique de médecine et de pharmacie*) of Lille, whose pupils, however, pass their examinations before a special board determined by the law and receive a diploma from the government, for no one can practice medicine in France unless he is furnished with a diploma of doctor of medicine, given by the French government. Recently the administrative board of the hospitals of Dunkerque, a city in the same department as Lille, a physician decided to open to competition two new posts for medical men, but with the proviso that no candidate would be accepted except a graduate of the Catholic school of Lille. The medical society (*syndicat médical*) of Dunkerque, justly indignant, passed a resolution protesting against this ruling and demanding that the competition be thrown open to every French physician, on the ground that the diploma given by the French government should carry the right of competing on equal terms for public places and functions.

"The Practitioner's Sundays"

Under the title of "The Practitioner's Sundays" (*Dimanches du praticien*) some physicians have organized in Paris a series of lectures intended to keep practitioners informed in regard to scientific progress in all the branches of medicine. They will be held on Sunday, the only day on which many physicians are at liberty. Because of the lively interest felt in all questions in regard to radium and radiotherapy, the first lectures will be on this subject. M. Matou, assistant at the Museum of Natural History, will speak on radiations and radioactivity. The following Sunday, Dr. Dominici will talk on the therapeutic application of radium.

The Physicians' "Salon"

A physician's artistic society, called L'Esculape, has just been founded. It has organized for next November an exhibition of works of art by physicians (painting, sculpture, engraving and decorative arts). This society, under the patronage of Drs. Gariel, Gilbert, Marcel Labbé, Richelot, Widal, and others, professors and *agregés* of the Paris medical school, intends also to give literary, dramatic and musical performances.

Correspondence

Warning Against Impostor

To the Editor:—Kindly warn the profession against a dirty, ragged individual who at present is calling on physicians in Brooklyn, soliciting money to get a meal or two with.

The man is about 5 feet 8 inches tall, with light hair and slight cockney accent. He claims to know the physician's relative in England. He also says that he is going to work his way home on an Atlantic transport liner, but has no money.

He has called on two others besides myself in the past few days. I discovered the fraud by casually mentioning my experience to another physician, who immediately described the beggar.

The man will probably try to work other cities.

H. W. BOICE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

X-Ray Examination.—The first and greatest value of the x-ray examination lies in the fact that it gives information regarding conditions existing in the sick or injured individual, which, in some instances, could not be obtained in any other way, or that it amplifies or confirms evidence obtained by the ordinary means of physical examination.—G. H. Stover, in *Denver Medical Times and Utah Medical Journal*.

Pharmacology

BYE CANCER CURE

Another Cruel Fraud Put Out of Business by the Postal Authorities

One of the most impudent quacks in the "cancer cure" business—B. F. Bye of Indianapolis—has just been officially denied the use of the United States mails. In the "Great American Fraud" the Bye "cancer curers" were shown up and the "piety" of Bye senior, who "founded a little church in Indianapolis with the money extracted from his dupes," was commented on. A few years ago the elder Bye ran a cancer cure fake known as the "Dr. D. M. Bye Combination Oil Cure Company" in Indianapolis, with his son-in-law, L. T. Leach, as manager. At the same time, one of the younger Byes—B. F. Bye—was operating a similar and rival concern in the same city. To quote from the "Great American Fraud":

"Across the street from the Dr. D. M. Bye offices is the 'down-town office and laboratory' of Dr. B. F. Bye. In the circulars this is pictured as a large and commodious brick building, standing far back in an imposing shaded yard. The picture is purely imaginary. So is that of the doctor's 'Sanatorium' in the same pamphlet. The B. F. Bye outfit is ensconced in a shabby wooden house close to the street, and the 'office and laboratory' are little more imposing inside than outside. The younger Bye makes preposterous claims of 82 per cent. of 'complete recoveries.' . . . His treatment wouldn't remove a wart or cure a mosquito bite."

"Dr. B. F. Bye's correspondence is replete with unconscious humor; *vide* this sample from his 'hurry-up' form-letter: 'When I pause and consider the amount of quackery and humbuggery practiced all over the country, it is not difficult to understand why the afflicted hesitate to accept new treatment, no matter how logical it may be.'

"He belongs to most of the fake medical organizations in the country, whose diplomas (purchased) he proudly displays on his walls."

That useful and overworked department of the postoffice that investigates frauds finally notified Dr. B. F. Bye to show cause why a fraud order should not be issued against him and his "cancer cure" outfit. The facts in the case, as submitted to the Postmaster General by R. P. Goodwin, assistant attorney general, are in part as follows:

"Dr. Bye is engaged in treating persons, afflicted with cancer, through the mails. He has succeeded to the business of his father, who for a number of years was engaged in a similar practice at Indianapolis, Indiana. He is also a brother-in-law of Dr. L. T. Leach,¹ who conducts a similar business from Indianapolis and against whom this office has recommended the issuance of a fraud order. While Dr. Bye advertises to have a sanitarium at Indianapolis where he treats personally patients who come there, the fact is he has no sanitarium of his own and such few persons as do go to Indianapolis for sanitarium treatment he locates in boarding houses and such places.

"On receipt of an inquiry about his treatment, it is Dr. Bye's practice to send the correspondent a circular letter, a question blank, a sheet of testimonials and a booklet bearing the following title:

Cancer, Its Etiology, Pathology and Treatment by Soothing Oils, by Benjamin F. Bye, M.D., Fellow of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons; Member Indiana Association Physicians and Surgeons; Fellow of the Indianapolis Academy of Medicine; Member of the Incorporated Society of Science, Letters and Art of London, England; Physician to St. Luke's Hospital, Surgeon Hillsboro R. R.; Chief Surgeon Indiana 1st Regiment U. S. A.; Examiner of Northwestern Life Insurance Co., Etc., Etc., Etc. Office and Laboratory, Indianapolis, Ind.

MEMBERSHIP IN FAKE ORGANIZATIONS

"The inspector endeavored to ascertain the character of the above associations and societies, and from Dr. George H. Simmons, editor of THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association, found that the 'American Association of Physicians and Surgeons' was in existence several years ago and that its business was in selling of diplomas to physicians and that it was made up of men not recognized by the medical profession as physicians of standing; that the 'Society of Science, Letters

1. The details of the government's action against Leach and his fake will appear in an early issue of THE JOURNAL.—Ed.