

alcohol from sugar. My carbohydrate test was described in the *Scalpel*, 1898-1900. I will for convenience describe it again. The essentials are: 4 c.cm. of saturated solution of potassium permanganate, 1 c.cm. acid sulph. dil., a long stoppered half-ounce phial, and a short stem thermometer going easily into the phial. The temperature of the oxidizer is first taken and recorded, 1 c.cm. of urine of the same temperature is added, the phial is briskly shaken a few seconds by the rim, the thermometer introduced and left *in situ*. The maximum for alcohol is obtained about the third minute. One measured droplet of spirits (gin, whisky, brandy) can be easily estimated quantitatively.

ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS IN TUBERCULOSIS.

DR. H. RENDELL (St. John's, Newfoundland) writes: In the report in your issue of April 3rd (p. 629) of the joint meeting of the Tuberculosis Society and the Tuberculosis Institution I was interested to note the following words by Dr. Crockett with reference to ultra-violet rays—"the rays are intensified from reflection from snow and sea." Those of us who have to work where there is much snow and ice have learned to guard against the sometimes serious effects of the glare of bright sun on ice—otherwise nictalopia is very likely to result. Is it not probable this is produced by the ultra-violet rays, and does this not convey a note of warning to patients and mechanicians? For centuries the Eskimos have worn most ingenious goggles, made of wood with very narrow slits in front; these enable them to see well and yet shade the eyes from direct or reflected rays.

LETHARGIC ENCEPHALITIS: PARKINSONISM: AORTIC REGURGITATION.

DR. L. F. BECCLE (Merthyr Tydfil) writes:—The following case might be of some interest: A youth, aged 19, seen on April 30th, gave a typical history of an attack of encephalitis lethargica some eighteen months previously. He had been healthy up to the time of this illness, and, in fact, was a very keen and promising boxer. I found that he was suffering from post-encephalitic Parkinsonism. He also had a typical aortic regurgitant murmur and enlargement of the left side of the heart. He gave no history of rheumatic fever or, in fact, of any illness with which this valvular defect could be associated. Is it possible that the encephalitic virus attacked the aortic valve, or did the latter condition arise insidiously from some unknown cause?

COMMON SENSE IN RELATION TO DOUBTFUL TUBERCULOSIS.

DR. F. G. BUSHNELL (Plymouth) writes:—The issues raised in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 8th and 15th (p. 846) on sending doubtful cases of tuberculosis to sanatoriums appear to be: (1) Against such a course: The risk of infection in sanatoriums in which open or potentially infective cases cohabit with non-tuberculous patients—that is, in which there is no "observation section"; and the grave social disadvantages that follow the labelling of a non-tuberculous person "tuberculous" which follow notification and treatment in a sanatorium. (2) For such a course: The assumed certainty of absolute control of infection during such intimate and prolonged sanatorium life; and the advantages of the open-air sanatorium *per se* for non-tuberculous cases, even without an "observation section." As one who has spent all his life working in the clinical, bacteriological, and administrative aspects of tuberculosis respectively, and especially as an ex-tuberculosis officer of fourteen years' experience, I share with many of my former colleagues the belief that the national public health resources should be applied to the common-sense separation—and control under medical supervision—of the active and potentially infective tuberculous population from the susceptible public, whether it be at the cradle, the home, the workshop, or the sanatorium. In brief, we rely largely on an antituberculosis ring of preventive measures. As long as we allow the seed to be sown broadcast, so long will the weeds spring up. The vast amount of research and statistics of tuberculosis officers of "contact" cases (shown so dramatically and tragically in tuberculous meningitis in infants and young children) in this country, and of Continental observers, especially Grancher, Léon Bernard, and Debré, establish this as a truth. In no way do they minimize the importance, however, of all measures which render the soil unsuitable, of which perhaps good housing is one of the greatest.

LATE SEQUELS OF WAR GASSING.

THE medical service of the United States Veterans' Bureau is making a special study of the residual effects of war gassing by investigating the present or recent condition of over 70,000 ex-service men with hospital records of injury due to this cause. In view of the uncertainty as to the permanence of the injury so caused, the present inquiry is of considerable importance, and Dr. Crossman, medical director of the bureau, invites communications from readers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, so that the information at the disposal of the bureau may be as complete as possible. The inquiry is not concerned with the better known and more immediate effects of war gases, but information in answer to the following questions is desired: (1) Does any war gassing received in action result in disability which is relatively lasting and permanent? (2) Does it cause lasting anatomical (pathological) changes, with or without disturbance of function (symptoms and disability)? (3) What organs or systems may thus be permanently affected or disturbed? (4) What symptomatology may exist in these circumstances? (5) If war gassing does produce relatively permanent effects, may a similar condition or conditions be produced by other agencies (diseases such as influenza, tuberculosis, effort syndrome, etc.)?

Two reprints of any articles on this subject are also desired. Correspondence should be addressed to Dr. E. O. Crossman, United States Veterans' Bureau, Washington.

MEDICAL LEGISLATORS.

THE Congress of the United States is made up of 96 Senators and 435 members of the House of Representatives. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* stated some time ago that there is only one member of the medical profession in the Senate, and only five in the House of Representatives, which also contains three dentists. About two-thirds of the Congressmen are lawyers or have had legal training. The remainder are mostly business men, farmers, and publishers, with a sprinkling of educators and engineers. Our contemporary has recently published some information about the legislatures of South America. In Uruguay, which has 19 Senators and 125 Representatives, five medical men were at the last election elected to the Senate and twenty-five to the House of Representatives. In this country there are two medical members in the House of Lords and fourteen in the House of Commons.

MILTON IN THE MAKING.

FOR those (and there are many) fond of sauntering down literary by-paths the book, *Some Newly Discovered Stanzas written by John Milton on Engraved Scenes illustrating Ovid's Metamorphoses*, on which Mr. Hugh C. H. Candy has evidently expended much loving labour, should prove of considerable interest. This Milton-Ovid script, he says, was written circa 1623; discovered, 1921; first printed in *Notes and Queries*, 1922-23; and is now revised and reprinted in one volume, with many additional notes. In number the verses here printed are almost exactly equal to all the English verse hitherto known to exist in Milton's handwriting; they are closely related to his favourite classic, and replete with evidence which confirms and illustrates the accepted traditions of his early literary development. Mr. Candy claims that the evidence of identification "is adequate in amount and both cumulative and corroborative in character." After perusal the reader is left in agreement with these conclusions. The stanzas, in what is claimed to be Milton's handwriting (and care is taken by many comparisons to prove this), amount in all to 166, and the lines are grouped in the decasyllabic couplet used by Milton in his "Paraphrase of Psalm 114," "Vacation Exercise," "Hodson Verses," "At a Solemn Musick," and occasionally in "Comus." Eight leaves of the small octavo volume (printed at Frankfurt in 1563) on which the script is written are lost, and it is estimated that seven stanzas have thus disappeared. This volume bore the title "Johan. Posthii Germersheimi Tetrasticha in Ovidii Metamor. Lib. XV quibus accesserunt Vergilii solis figurae elegantiss. & jam primum in lucem editae," and it is in description of the illustrations therein that the stanzas were written. Above each engraving is printed a quatrain in Latin, and, below, a similar quatrain in German summarizing the scene. The verse of each folio is blank and unnumbered; it was on these that the scribe had written a stanza of English verse interpreting the succeeding plate. The English verse is not a translation of either of the foreign quatrains or of Ovid's text, but the composition is original, though the subject is prescribed by the corresponding plate. If the scribe was indeed Milton, and if the stanzas were written circa 1623, it follows that the poet was then about 15 years of age, the age when he wrote the paraphrases of Psalms cxiv and cxxvi which incur the disdain of Sir A. Quiller-Couch; but after reading Chapter VI of Mr. Candy's book ("the complete text with annotations") there seems little doubt of his having a good case, and of his having made it out well. For its interest from the point of view of folk-medicine we may quote stanza III ("The Trauell of Alcmena"):

"Seven nights and dayes Alcmena sore opprest
With bearing pains, to Jone her prayers adrest
With hands erected, and Ilithyia calls
T' her helpe, whose aide Juno with spite forestalls
With crosselegged charmes, and finger fouled spells
Sh' Alcides birth retards; Galanthis tells
Her false deliv'ry, and by what she said
Juno deceiv'd, for 't she's a weasell made."

MEDICAL GOLFING SOCIETY.

THE Medical Golfing Society held its twenty-ninth annual summer meeting at Wentworth (by kind permission) on June 10th. The course was in excellent order. The results were as follows: *Lancet Challenge Cup* (scratch).—H. D. Gillies, 1 down. *The Milsom Rees Challenge Cup* (scratch in Class II).—A. H. Gosse, F. A. Juler. *Class I.*—D. S. Gordon and A. Galletly tied at 1 down. *Class II.*—A. Scott Gillett and F. A. Juler tied at 2 down. *Foursomes.*—These were won by T. P. Kolesar and W. R. Bristow.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, and 57 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 54 and 55.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 227.

* *Some Newly Discovered Stanzas written by John Milton on Engraved Scenes illustrating Ovid's Metamorphoses*. Revised and reprinted in one volume, with many additional notes by Hugh C. H. Candy, B.A., B.Sc. Lond. London: Nisbet and Co., Ltd. (Med. 8vo, pp. viii + 192; 8 notes. 7s. 6d. net.)