

past five years. The increase was chiefly due to diarrhoeal diseases among children under five years of age; and the death rate for the week presented an annual death rate of 34.61 per thousand of the estimated population. High as this mortality is, it is considerably smaller than that of the intensely hot weather of July, 1892, when during the week ending July 30, it reached the extreme figure of 1,434.

Paper Stockings.—Paper stockings are a new German invention. A Berlin shoe trade journal says that the stockings are made of a specially prepared impregnated paper stock, which, it is claimed, has an extraordinary effect on perspiring feet. The moisture is absorbed by the paper as rapidly as it is formed, and the feet remain dry and warm, while the constant temperature maintained in the shoes is said to be a great preventive of cold.—*Jenness-Miller Monthly*.

To Obscure the Taste.—Gymnemic acid is the active principle of *Gymnema sylvestris*, the formula of which is $C_{32}H_{48}O_{12}$. It is a greenish-white powder, having a sharp, acid taste; very soluble in alcohol, but slightly soluble in water and ether. When the tongue is touched with it, the taste is completely lost for sweet and bitter. The subjects of the experiment are incapable of perceiving the taste of quinine or of sugar, while that of acid, salty, astringent or spicy substances is completely recognized. Availing himself of this fact, Quirine recommends, before administering bitter remedies, that the mouth be rinsed with a 12 per cent. solution of gymnemic acid in alcohol and water.

To Remove Odors.—The odor of iodoform, creosote or guaiacol may be removed from the hands by washing with linseed meal. Tar water containing oil of wintergreen will remove the odor of iodoform from articles to which it attaches. Powdered coffee will disguise the taste of creosote pills, while burning coffee dissipates the odor of guaiacol or iodoform in rooms.—*Pharmaceutical Era*.

Lunatics in Jail.—The *Texas Health Journal* for July says there are more than one thousand lunatics in the Texas jails, on account of alleged lack of room in the asylums for which a parsimonious legislature has made insufficient appropriations. Who is the Texas Holman?

The Useful Alligator.—The *Pharmaceutical Era* in speaking of "alligatorine" says: It is a French proposition that the fat of the alligator be employed as a basis for ointments. The fat is saponified by alcoholic potash, the soap decomposed by hydrochloric acid, and the fatty acid mixed with cottonseed oil. It is claimed that the metallic salts of this acid are readily absorbed by the skin.

To avoid duplication of payments or complication of accounts, members are respectfully informed that *membership dues* should be sent to the Association Treasurer, Dr. R. J. Duglison, Lock box 1274, Philadelphia.

Subscription fees from gentlemen not members of the Association, should be sent to this office. Address JOURNAL AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 68 Wabash Ave., Chicago.

Wanted, two copies of the JOURNAL of January 2, 1892, to complete volume for binding.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

(A) Atkinson, W. B., Philadelphia, Pa.; (B) Brumbaugh, A. B., Huntingdon, Pa.; Bishop, S. S., Chicago; Cleaves, Margaret A., New York; Cooper, E. B., Sunbury, Pa.; Collins, H. L., St. Paul, Minn.; (D) Duglison, R. J., Philadelphia;

Davis, W. S., Minneapolis, Minn.; (E) Elliott, A. R., New York; Everett, J. T., Wichita, Kan.; Eagleson, J. B., Seattle, Wash.; (G) Griffith & Co., New York, N. Y.; Greene, C. S., San Francisco, Cal.; (H) Heath, F. C., Indianapolis, Ind.; (K) Katharmon Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo.; King, J. K., Watkins, N. Y.; (M) Marcy, H. O., Boston; Maybury, W. J., Saco, Me.; McBride, J. H., Wauwatosa, Wis.; McGowan, Wm. D., California, Pa.; (N) Newman, R., Arlington, Detroit; (O) O'Gorman, Jas., Baltimore, Md.; (R) Rowell, Geo. P. & Co., New York, N. Y.; Rio Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo.; Reynolds, H. T., Baltimore, Md.; (S) Smith, Joseph, Kansas City, Mo.; Sawyer, L. K. W., Sparks, Neb.; Smith, F. F., Chattanooga, Tenn.; Stewart, F. E., Watkins, N. Y.; (T) The Sanitarium, Battle Creek, Mich.; (W) Wyman, W., Washington, D. C.; Webster, Geo. W., Chicago; Wyman, Hal. C., Detroit, Mich.; Warner, W. R. & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; Welch, S. A., Providence, R. I.

THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

Naval Post Graduate Medical School.

The new post graduate school of instruction for surgeons who enter the Navy, established by Surgeon General Tryon, opened at the Brooklyn Naval Laboratory in charge of Medical Director Wells, the first chief of staff of the institution, assisted by a full corps of medical officers of the Navy as instructors.

Dr. Tryon's object in starting the school is to afford young assistant surgeons who enter the Navy a chance to thoroughly familiarize themselves with certain branches of medicine and surgery which they were unable to study in civil life, and to instruct them in the duties which they have to perform on sea-going naval ships.

The school, which opened August 1 at the Naval Laboratory, begins with two scholars who have recently entered the Navy. This building has long been of little use, and has recently been fitted out and adapted for its new use. Soon after assistant surgeons are commissioned they will be ordered to the establishment, and will be required to perform their duties faithfully while undergoing instruction. The course of instruction will continue for a period of at least three months, and will embrace the following subjects: Chemistry, hygiene and sanitary science, microscopy and microbiology, military surgery and operative work, clinical medicine and hospital work, construction and ventilation of modern ships, examination of recruits and life-saving methods, navy regulations, etc.

The students will be expected to visit the naval hospitals, study and investigate diseases as associated with naval life, and the diseases to which sailors are chiefly susceptible. The course will also embrace the general principles of hygiene, causes of disease, methods of investigation and the duties of health authorities.

The record of young officers at the school will be kept and filed away at the Navy Department for reference when an applicant comes up before the examining boards for promotion, and will serve as a guide in a measure, to selecting officers for certain duties.

After completing the course surgeons will be ordered to sea-going ships well equipped to perform the duties of their new life.

Army Changes. Official list of changes in the stations and duties of officers serving in the Medical Department, U. S. Army, from July 22, 1893, to July 28, 1893.

Capt. LEONARD WOOD, Asst. Surgeon, is relieved from duty at Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., and ordered to Ft. McPherson, Ga., for duty. First Lieut. BENJAMIN L. TEN EYCK, Asst. Surgeon U. S. A., is granted leave of absence for two months, to take effect on or about September 15, 1893, with permission to apply for an extension of one month. Major LOUIS M. MAUS, Surgeon U. S. A., is granted leave of absence for one month, to take effect when his services can be spared at Ft. Wingate, N. M.

Capt. WILLIAM B. DAVIS, Asst. Surgeon, is relieved from duty at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., and ordered to Ft. Brown, Tex., for duty, relieving Capt. GEORGE H. TORNEY, Asst. Surgeon. Capt. TORNEY, upon being relieved by Capt. DAVIS, will proceed to and take station at Philadelphia, Pa., as attending surgeon and examiner of recruits at that place.

Capt. LOUIS W. CRAMPTON, Asst. Surgeon, is relieved from duty at Ft. Spokane, Washington, and from temporary duty at Hdqrs. Dept. of the Colorado, and ordered to Baltimore, Md., as attending surgeon and examiner of recruits, relieving Capt. CHARLES B. EWING, Asst. Surgeon.

Navy Changes. Official list of changes in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Navy, for the week ending July 29, 1893.

Surgeon H. J. BABIN, to temporary duty at naval station, Port Royal, S. C. Asst. Surgeon A. R. ALFRED, from the "Franklin," and to the "Minnesota."

Asst. Surgeon J. M. MOORE, from Norfolk Hospital, and to the "Franklin." Medical Inspector E. KERSHNER, to duty on board U. S. S. "New York." P. A. Surgeon J. F. URIC, to duty on board U. S. S. "New York." Asst. Surgeon H. D. WILSON, from the "Minnesota," and to the "New York."

Medical Inspector B. H. KIDDER, Medical Director H. M. WELLS, Surgeon FRANK ANDERSON, P. A. Surgeon CLEMENT BIDDLE, granted leaves of absence.