form of a scientific institute for the study of tropical diseases and of preventive medicine.

No better place could have been selected than Panama City, the gateway between the Atlantic and the Pacific, where General Gorgas' well-planned and executed work made possible the building of the Panama Canal.

It is hardly necessary to call the attention of the medical profession to the far-reaching effects of General Gorgas' work on the welfare of the people of the whole world, especially in tropical and semi-tropical climates, and in all places subject to the inroads of infectious disease.

We of the medical profession remember him as our Surgeon-General during the early part of the World War. We remember his prompt recognition of the necessity of bringing into active service large numbers of physicians and surgeons from civilian life. We remember his genial and kindly nature, his high character, and his steadfast effort directed toward the organization and equipment of the Medical Corps of the Army. We remember the patriotic response. We remember him as a great sanitary officer, to whom we wish to pay a lasting tribute.

A central committee has been formed, with Admiral Braisted, retired, ex-president of the American Medical Association, as its president. The American Medical Association has appointed a committee of three to work in accord with the central committee, and through its members this appeal is made to the American medical profession.

The plan is to build at Panama an institute for the study of tropical and infectious diseases, with a hospital, laboratories, departments for research and all other facilities required in an institute of this character, erected and administered according to the most progressive, modern ideals. The Panamanian Government, owing to the far-sighted, philanthropic vision of President Porras, has donated the great Santo Tomas Hospital, and also the ground on which it is proposed immediately to construct the buildings as they have been described. Dr. Strong has been appointed the scientific director.

In conjunction with this work in Panama, there will be established in Tuscaloosa, Ala., the Gorgas School of Sanitation for the purpose of training country health workers, sanitary engineers, and public health nurses, especially educated to deal with the problems peculiar to the Southern States.

An endowment of six and one-half million dollars will be required to enable the institute to carry on the work according to the plans which have been formed.

The Republic of Panama has demonstrated its sympathetic and practical interest in this enterprise with splendid liberality. The physicians of our country, and especially the members of the American Medical Association, surely will not disregard the memory of a former president, and will seize the opportunity to make in this respect a contribution of which they will be proud.

The campaign for funds is to be international. A large response is expected from North, Central and South America, since the nations of these countries have been the chief beneficiaries of the labors of General Gorgas. It is fitting that his co-workers of the American medical profession should be requested to respond generously to this appeal. It is hoped that every member of the American Medical Association will make as liberal a subscription as possible. Any sum will be gratefully received. Checks should be drawn to the order of the "Gorgas Fund" and should be mailed to the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn street, Chicago.

CHARLES W. RICHARDSON, Chairman,
Washington, D. C.,
F. B. LUND, Boston,
G. E. DeSCHWEINITZ, Philadelphia.

THE PUBLIC PRESS AND THE PHYSICIANS

It is interesting and instructive for physicians to note what the public is thinking and saying, particularly as appears in editorial comment by important newspapers. A meeting of the A. M. A. in St. Louis was the occasion for considerable amount of newspaper discussion of physicians and medical affairs from which we quote a few extracts.

The St. Louis Post Dispatch says: "A transition from individual to organized practice already has begun, and that the movement is rapidly spreading. This means that the progressive leaders recognize the profession's obligation to the public in fighting disease, regardless of the effect on private practice. They regard the benefits of medicine as belonging to humanity and not to the doctors. . . . With the profession under such leadership as Dr. de Schweinitz and his supporters, the public will feel no misgiving toward the organization of men who, more than any other group of equal number, hold in their hands the power of human life and death. The public, moreover, should ally itself with this organization to stamp out quackery and drive from the profession elements that would exploit the people rather than assist them to health. It can do this by fighting such measures as that put over by the last Missouri Legislature to grant physicians' licenses to applicants who pass a State examination, regardless of their education and training."

The Globe-Democrat prints the following: "Doctors are our modern father confessors. Men and women go to them who formerly went to the clergy. They have earned and they have received the confidence of all who are in trouble about their bodies, and of many who are in trouble about their souls. No one can speak too gratefully of the way in which the work is done, of the skill, the kindness, the understanding and sympathy, even the toleration of human weakness on the part of the medical profession. Nevertheless, I put this question: Does the medical profession as a whole take its proper part in guiding and influencing public opinion in these matters wherein it alone can speak with authority?"

Under such headings as "The Family Doctor," "Too Many Specialists," "G. P.'s and Specialists," editors over the country plead for the return of the "all 'round family doctor" or defend the development of specialization in medicine, according to their several viewpoints.

The Denver Times wants the old-time general practitioner and family doctor restored to the place which he once occupied in the esteem and affections of the public. "Specialization has run riot in medicine during the last ten years," says the Times, and "it is time for the old family doctor to return, the physician who was not only well grounded in medical knowledge and trained in the school of varied experience, but possessed of common sense and genuine humane sympathy." The editor of the Western paper, a very smooth writer and a hard hitter, insists that "versatility in medicine is much to be desired," and thinks that specialists are inclined to be "single trackers," who know little outside of their especial fields. Admitting that specialists have done much to improve technique and to advance the cause of medicine, the Denver editor decries the growth of specialism and says "the present tendency carried to its logical conclusion, means that every man must employ a corps of specialists to look after the health of his family. It is fast coming to this unless steps are taken to develop the general practitioner anew and to stop the influences which have weakened confidence in his judgment and ability."

The Hartford Times is for the specialist and for the general practitioner, too, with an apparent leaning toward specialization as offering more than can otherwise be had for the public benefit. "The old-time family physician," who let the children play with his watch chain and who gave them enormous

doses of calomel and whisky and quinine for almost anything, "got away with it," but knew surprisingly little about the human body. On the other hand, he often knew more about the human soul than does the learned specialist of today, and was able to boom his patient back to health by sheer force of personality. Just as many times, however, he was unable to function at all and was pitiably helpless in situations which today seem relatively simple to the medical man. There cannot be too much specialization in medicine and, just as truly, there cannot be too much of the friendly sympathy of the old-time family physician. . . .

The Fall River Globe defines State medicine as "any form of medical treatment provided by the Federal, State, county or city government." The Globe makes it clear that the doctors do not oppose State control of communicable disease, nor treatment and care of the indigent and the insane, nor preventive measures initiated by the State for public health, and then agrees that "there is, as the doctors maintain, too much of a disposition on the part of the State to take up work with which it should have nothing to do in an active way. And as the doctors declare, the State's paternalism is sure to result in community irresponsibility." . . .

The Courier opines that the "continual, constant coddling, nursing and babying of the individual by the group is the most dangerous tendency in American public life of today. We are making weaklings out of individuals, undermining the national character, taking away the need or necessity for self-reliance, and teaching old and young to believe that it is somebody else's job to look after us."—Abstract from American Medical Bulletin.

Nutrition in Schoolchildren—Taliaferro Clark, Washington, D. C. (Journal A. M. A., August 12, 1922), reviews this subject on the basis of previous reports made by others, and points out that nutrition is a matter of general education and of change in community custom and habit, involving time, and of State and Federal guidance. It is not merely a question of weighing and measuring. So serious are the demands made on the time of both pupils and teachers by those engaged in, or wishing to engage in, sundry forms of welfare work, and by others with newly devised schemes for the general uplift which they wish first to try out in the schools, that any great extension of such activities, it seems, will leave but little time for instructions in the three R's. It is for this reason that all basically related forms of school health work should be united and harmoniously fitted to the general plan of health instruction and health supervision, utilizing the combined wisdom of both the educational and health authorities for such purpose. Courses in health should be prescribed and given weight in the school curriculum corresponding to major subjects. Such instruction naturally should be adapted to the intellectual capacity of the different age groups. As regards nutrition, teaching in the early grades should be concerned more with the importance of milk, vegetables, fruits, cereals and the like, in the diet, from the standpoint that they help to make the child grow up to be strong. The teaching of the principles of nutrition and nutritive values should be reserved for the older grades. Instruction in nutrition should not be reserved for and given only to a special group of children, either underweight or otherwise, but should include all children attending school. Special nutrition classes for malnourished children are unnecessary in a well-conducted school system providing proper health supervision. Weighing and measuring should be considered a necessary measure in every physical examination, and, in the case of children who fail to gain or lose weight steadily, the causes should be investigated and corrected. The character of the school lunch should receive careful attention, especially in rural schools, where many children frequently come long distances after a hurried breakfast, bringing a hastily prepared, poorly selected lunch, or none at all, and remain all day. Aside from the question of the effect on health, an underfed child is no more fit for mental effort than is the laborer for physical tasks. Clark also calls attention to the apathetic, and, in many instances, indifferent attitude of the medical profession to the danger signals that have been so prominently brought to the front by the lay workers, and urges the importance of physicians displaying more active interest in nutritional problems and giving more hearty support and co-operation in solving them.

Nursing Education in Michigan—In Michigan the battle wages merrily as to whether the University shall establish a separate department of nursing which shall be entirely independent of the medical profession. The Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society says that some of the self-appointed leaders in the nursing profession, in discussing the subject, have said, "We are not going to take orders from the doctors, and henceforth we will perform our nursing service under our own direction and not under the direction of the doctor." As we understand the plan, which, by the way, has been proposed by the Rockefeller Foundation with a one-million-dollar endowment as the bait to bring about acceptance, the University is to have a department of nursing, which is just as distinct a department as is the department of medicine or law, and it is to operate independent of any other department. The final product turned out by this department is to be a "super-nurse," or one who is supposed to possess knowledge greatly in excess of the knowledge possessed by the ordinary trained nurse who has had the advantage of contact with patients and members of the medical profession, though the super-nurse is not required to have any such fundamental knowledge.

As has so well been stated by leading medical men and medical publications in this country, there is little need for "super-nurses," and certainly no need for the fifty thousand proposed by the Rockefeller Foundation.—Editorial, Indiana State Medical Journal, October 15, 1922.

Extension Lecture Service in Physiotherapy—By co-operation between the California Association of Physiotherapists and the Section officers of the State Medical Society, the following extension program will be available any time after January 1, 1923, for county society meetings:

1. The Correction of Static Deformities by Exercise—H. H. Markel, M. D., (with moving pictures).
2. The Mechanics of Posture and the Posture Examination—Sarah R. Davis.
3. Physiotherapy in the Treatment of Heart Diseases of Children—Edith Bronson, M. D.
4. Physiotherapy in Back Injuries—E. W. Cleary, M. D.

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