receive a "one." They finally agreed that, inasmuch as there were ladies in the room, he really should be excused for making the mistakes and given a "one." The excellence of their French made us blush with shame.

Professor Wenckebach is most gracious. I attended his demonstration in physical diagnosis to second-year students. There is no bedside instruction, but a complete demonstration of each type of case with three to four students called onto the platform each time to examine the patient. Doctor Wenckebach has very decided views on medical education, and after the lecture we had a long conversation on full time as versus part-time instruction. He is very much opposed to the former. His cardiac clinic is most interesting and he cordially welcomes research workers, but will not take them unless they are willing to spend six or more months with him and take up some definite problem. He has four small wards with from four to five beds each and two two-bed wards for cardiac cases which are studied completely. The ambulatory cardiac clinic has from forty to fifty patients a day. In addition to physical examination, all receive electrocardiograms, pulse tracings, and x-ray films. A bus is sent for those unable to walk to the clinic. Another feature of the clinic is the consideration of the condition of the heart in those patients suffering primarily from some other ailment, but with symptoms suggesting cardiac involvement. These are sent from other clinics and from private physicians and returned with diagnosis to their source.

I had the pleasure of seeing Dr. Florence Sabin at the Rockefeller Institute and Dr. William Park of New York. Doctor Sabin is doing some truly thrilling work in connection with vitally stained blood cells, and a method of early diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis. Dr. William Park told me of a wonderful surgeon who had perfected an operation whereby those children who had for years worn a tracheotomy tube were, by a plastic operation, given a new larynx. They had been restored to their parents and school as useful citizens, and were being taught to speak again. We also had a discussion as to the proper technique for the administration of toxin-antitoxin. He said it was a timely question, as they were even then under discussion as to the relative advantages of the subcutaneous and intramuscular injections. Some claimed that there was injury to the muscle fiber in the intramuscular injection, though he himself did not feel so, and they were about to section the muscles of animals to establish the facts. He said that the technique that he liked was to give the first injection subcutaneously, and to regard it in the light of a Schick test, seeing the arm at the end of the sixth or seventh day. If it were positive he advocated proceeding with the second and third injections, giving them intramuscularly. If it were negative he felt that further injections might be dispensed with.

One comes home from a visit of this sort with the feeling that one must hurry and earn the wherewithal to do it all over again.

The New York State Department of Health has lined up solidly against an attempt to secure the enactment of a special chiropractic bill in the New York State Legislature.

Commenting upon this opposition by public health authorities the *New York State Journal of Medicine* said:

"The second witness was Dr. Matthias Nicoll, Jr., commissioner of health of New York State. Doctor Nicoll said that chiropractors acknowledge that they practice medicine and treat contagious diseases, although they know little about them, and say they have no need to study them; yet failure to recognize them and treat them properly is not only harmful to the patient, but is also a public menace. Doctor Nicoll also said that the State Department of Health is supervising 2000 children crippled from poliomyelitis, many of whom were still helpless because they were improperly treated by chiropractors during the early stages when improvement might be effected."—*Ohio M. J.*

In cases of peritonitis use Fowler's position at once. Do not wait until after the operation.

Merely raising the head of the bed (Fowler's position) will not as surely encourage gravitation of fluid to the pelvis as will sitting the patient up in bed.—*Am. J. Surg.*

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS *

By C. B. PINKHAM, M. D., *Secretary*

According to the report of our special agent, J. Lafayette Berry, whose license was revoked October 21, 1919, was on April 1, 1927, found guilty of practicing medicine without a license by Superior Judge Edwin Hahn of Los Angeles, who thereafter imposed a sentence of ninety days in the county jail, suspended for two years on the condition that Doctor Berry does not violate the Medical Practice Act during the period of his probation.

On March 16, 1927, the appointment of Samuel J. Howell as a member of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners to succeed J. K. Gilkerson, resigned, was announced through the press.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* of March 27, 1927, related the arrest of Julius Wolf, William Hopkins and Frank Mandanba, San Francisco, alleged to have been former students in the dental department of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco, it being further related that said individuals had employed a Howard Street engraving firm to make dental diplomas in connection with a "diploma mill" plot, both in the United States and the Philippine Islands, whereby it is presumed dentists were to be made in wholesale quantities without the necessity of institutional training.

Governor Young today signed the diploma mill measure, by Senator J. J. Crowley of San Francisco, who introduced the bill at the request of the State Board of Medical Examiners. The bill makes sweeping provisions against people who fraudulently procure or counterfeit any medical degree or certificate and provides that such action be a felony, inflicting a stringent fine against violators (San Francisco *Examiner,* April 8, 1927). Governor Young in signing this measure makes California an outstanding state in providing either prison sentence or heavy fine on those who attempt to operate diploma mills, etc.

According to the Police Department of Sawtelle, California, Margaret E. Dunlap, mentioned in the February, 1927, "News Items" as a physician arrested on a fictitious check charge is not a physician, but uses the prefix "Dr." as an aid in passing fictitious checks.

According to a press dispatch dated Paso Robles, April 7, published in the San Luis *Telegram* of the same date, it appears that the "eyesight specialist" swindlers are still operating in this state, it being related that Constable Peterson had arrested a man posing as an expert eye doctor, who was alleged to have attempted the same old swindle on J. S. Matthews as perpetrated by Messrs. Faircloth and Gebhardt, mentioned in "News Items" of February and March, 1926. This individual apparently removed a small growth from the patient's eye, for which he demanded the sum of $367.50. An article relating the method of operation of these eyesight swindlers was published in the bulletin of the Federation of Medical Examining Boards, March 27, there seeming to be an "epidemic" of such swindlers which has spread across the United States.

Dr. J. A. Hadley, Arcata physician accused in connection with the death of Louise Baxendale, 19-year-old Oakland girl, who died following an illegal operation April 6 last, was today held for trial in the Superior Court. Doctor Hadley is charged with second degree murder. Walter Thayer, 20, of Oakland, who confessed to the District Attorney that he brought the girl to Doctor Hadley for an operation, is being held in jail as a material witness. Doctor Hadley denies the charge against him.—*San Francisco Examiner,* April 14, 1927.

In the face of a possible Grand Jury investigation into the shooting of Dr. George Ham, Moneta physician and surgeon, by Motorcycle Officer C. J. Andrews on March 14, while the doctor was answering an emergency call, the Compton Board of Trustees voted to reinstate the officer and exonerated him. . . .—*Los Angeles Record,* March 23, 1927.

Dr. Ralph W. Harris, 2145 Marne Avenue, fell victim to a lone footpad early today when he answered a call for aid. The doctor told police detectives he received a

* This column is compiled and edited by the secretary of the California Board of Medical Examiners.

call to go to 1524 Georgia Street, and, on reaching the spot, was stopped by the bandit, who held him up and took his watch and $5 cash (Los Angeles *Herald,* March 29, 1927). Mention of similar procedure has appeared in previous issues of "News Items."

According to the Los Angeles *Examiner* of March 21, 1927, Dr. Frederick Kane pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of intoxicating liquors and paid a fine of $150, the article relating "When the policemen attempted to arrest the physician, he ran, after trying to break two pint bottles of liquor. . . . Doctor Kane explained he was going to take the liquor to a sick patient when he was accosted. . . ." According to a report from our special agent, Fred Kane is not a physician, but was formerly employed in a laboratory of a Los Angeles dentist, who stated that he "had to let him go."

Governor Young on April 5, 1927, signed Senate Bill 73 (Senator Young), sponsored by the Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Osteopathic Examiners, which amends the Medical Practice Act, making it a cause for the issuance of a citation to give ambulatory treatment to narcotic addicts. Section 14 is further amended by prohibiting the use of the suffix "M. D." or "D. O." by those who have not fully completed a course of instruction in an approved medical or osteopathic school.

Dr. Frederick K. Lord, Ceres, California, who continued to practice during the term of the suspension of his certificate, imposed by the board March 9, 1926, has been cited to appear before the board at its next regular meeting to show cause why his license should not be revoked for failing to comply with the judgment of the board. (Previous entries, March, May, June, July, 1926; January, February, March, 1927.)

The San Francisco *Bulletin* of April 13, 1927, printed a news item headed "Los Angeles Surgeon Arrested for Murdering Wife," relating to a press dispatch dated Detroit, April 13, noting the arrest of Dr. Frank R. Loomis, a physician and surgeon, on a charge of first degree murder in connection with "the mysterious clubbing to death in the family home the night of February 22 of Mrs. Grace Loomis." The records of the Board of Medical Examiners do not show anyone by the name of Frank R. Loomis licensed to practice in this state.

A citation has been issued calling Dr. G. Carl H. McPheeters, Fresno, California, before the board at the next regular meeting to show cause why his license should not be revoked. (Previous entries, September, October, December, 1926; January, 1927.)

A citation has been issued calling Eldridge R. Morlan of Fellows before the board at the next regular meeting to show cause why his license should not be revoked based on alleged illegal operations. (Previous entry, March, 1927.)

Reports continue to be filed relating the theft from automobiles, etc., of physicians' instrument bags, some of which are later recovered intact, with the exception of the loss of the narcotics contained therein. Evidently strict enforcement is resulting in the narcotic addict finding it more difficult to obtain a supply. According to the Los Angeles *Herald* of March 29, Dr. B. W. Heath, a veterinarian, was held up, bound to a chair, and his assailant then stole a quantity of narcotics, etc.

Inquiries are coming to us regarding the "Natural Eyesight Institute," 1300 Pershing Square Building, Los Angeles, reported as extensively advertising in eastern magazines, our investigator reporting that so far as he can ascertain there are no licensed physicians, opticians, or other licensed individuals connected with this Institute, alleged to be operated by Urban L. Barrett, formerly connected with his three brothers in operating "The Barrett Institute, an unincorporated institution at 1932 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles."

According to reports, A. Silva, Hanford, California, on March 8, 1927, pleaded guilty to a charge of violating of the Medical Practice Act and was placed on probation for two years.

The predictions made by a drug addict months ago that he would rock Ventura by his revelations are coming true. Dr. G. N. Stockwell, prominent local physician, who has practiced here for years, was arrested by a squad of county, state and federal officers last night. Doctor Stockwell was cornered in his office and a search of his quarters revealed the stock of opiates, valued at $2000 by the federal operatives. The arresting officers feel sure that the dope is smuggled narcotics. . . .—*Ventura Free Press,* March 15, 1927.

Unless the District Attorney appeals Superior Judge Charles S. Burnell's ruling granting a new trial to Dr. W. E. Williams, convicted of manslaughter by a jury last week, the physician will be tried a second time within the next thirty days, if an open day can be found. In the meantime Dr. Williams, who has been in the county jail since his conviction, is released on his own recognizance. He is accused of causing the death of Evelyn Taylor by an illegal operation—(Los Angeles *Express,* April 1, 1927). A citation has been issued calling Willie Eason Williams before the board at the next regular meeting to show cause why his license should not be revoked. (Previous entries, "News Items," April, 1927.)

The heretofore lax corporation laws of California have been immeasurably strengthened by Governor Young's approval of Senate Bill 633 (Senator Slater), which places strict supervision over the incorporation of colleges or seminaries given power to confer degrees. This essential legislation "dovetails" with the recently signed diploma mill bill, making it a felony to use fraudulent degrees, etc.

Governor Young recently signed Senate Bill 308 (Senator Crowley), amending Section 11 of the Medical Practice Act, modernizing the subjects of examination in accordance with the wishes of the medical schools of the state.

Assembly Bill 178 (Mr. Woolwine) was signed by Governor Young April 13, 1927. This bill amends Section 13 of the Medical Act by requiring oral examination of all those who base their reciprocity applications on a certificate issued by a sister state, dated ten years prior to their filing their applications in California, and further amends the section by allowing the Osteopathic Board to give an oral examination for a physician and surgeon's certificate to those who have been granted reciprocity certificates to practice osteopathy and who satisfy the board that their credentials entitle them to such examination.

The application of psychology demands a close study of the mental attitude of the patient, not only toward his disease, but toward his physician. The wise doctor makes a minute study of the mental reactions of his patient and he treats him in such a way that his mental equilibrium is disturbed to the least possible degree. He exercises the greatest caution as to what he tells the patient, both as to diagnosis and prognosis. Let it be remembered always that accurate prognosis is the most difficult of the medical sciences. In my short years of practice I have seen a number of persons live out their allotted time, upon whom some physician of repute had pronounced a death sentence twenty years previously. A careless and unguarded prognosis savors of quackery. It is the chief stock-in-trade of the alarmist, frequently driving patients through fear into unnecessary operations or developing in them lifelong neuroses.—George C. Davis, *Lycoming Co. (Pa.) Bull.*

The general practitioner, is, and must remain, the backbone of the medical profession. His place in the great army of physicians, waging warfare against disease, has been aptly likened to that of the infantryman in the military establishment. He is, in fact, the doughboy of the profession, and on his efficiency and well-being, depends the morale of that profession. He must therefore realize the responsibilities which rest upon him. He must use the five senses in his possession and such special instruments as he can command, he must reason logically to a conclusion and apply appropriate remedies. To do this is as truly scientific in method as the work of the laboratory research man.—George C. Davis, *Lycoming Co. (Pa.) Bull.*

I urge the younger members of the profession to study earnestly and practice faithfully the code of medical ethics; the older members to review it frequently, to obey the dictates of a quickened conscience. May we all study the moral philosophy of medicine.—George C. Davis, *Lycoming Co. (Pa.) Bull.*