MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, Kansas City, Missouri, May 11-15, 1936. Olin West, M. D., 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, Secretary.

California Medical Association, Coronado, May 25-28, 1936. Frederick C. Warnshuis, M. D., 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Secretary.

California Tuberculosis Association, Sacramento, April 2-4, 1936. Mr. W. F. Higby, 45 Second Street, San Francisco, Executive Secretary.

Medical Broadcasts*

The American Medical Association broadcasts over WEAF, the red network instead of the blue, as formerly, and certain additional stations of the National Broadcasting Company at 5 p. m., eastern standard time (4 p. m. central standard time, 3 p. m., mountain time, 2 p. m. Pacific time), each Tuesday, presenting a dramatized program with incidental music under the general theme of "Medical Emergencies and How They Are Met." The title of the program is "Your Health." The program is recognizable by a musical salutation through which the voice of the announcer offers a toast: "Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Health!" The theme of the program is repeated each week in the opening announcement, which informs the listener that the same medical knowledge and the same doctors that are mobilized for the meeting of grave medical emergencies are available in every community, day and night, for the promotion of the health of the people. Each program will include a brief talk dealing with the central theme of the individual broadcast.

Pacific Network.—The stations on the Pacific network are KGO KPO KFI KGW KOMO KHQ KFSD KTAR.

San Francisco County Medical Society.—The radio broadcast program for the San Francisco County Medical Society for the month of March is as follows:

Tuesday, March 3—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, March 10—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, March 17—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, March 24—KYA, 6 p. m.
Tuesday, March 31—KYA, 6 p. m.

Los Angeles County Medical Association.—The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of March is as follows:

Saturday, March 7—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, March 7—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, March 10—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, March 14—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, March 14—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, March 17—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, March 21—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, March 21—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, March 24—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, March 28—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.
Saturday, March 28—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
Tuesday, March 31—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The Road of Health.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Sunday Pathology and Radiology Conferences at Coronado.—Sunday, May 24, 1936, the day before the California Medical Association annual session, will be devoted to the annual Cancer Commission conferences on radiology and pathology. Programs will be announced in later issues of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. Put the date on your calendar now.

Infantile Paralysis: Warm Springs Foundation Support of California Studies.—The Hooper Foundation of the University of California has received $5,000 from the committee in charge of distribution of the funds from President Roosevelt's birthday balls, for the purpose of continuing studies in the cause and treatment of infantile paralysis.

The work, which is general in its nature, is being carried on under the direction of Miss B. F. Howitt, associate in research medicine.

Distribution of the fund this year was made to a number of schools, colleges, and other institutions engaged in infantile paralysis research and treatment. The University's interest in this work centers around a pool in the University Hospital, fashioned after the famous Warm Springs pool in Georgia, and in research and treatment work in other departments of the University Medical School.

History of Science Society.—Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, professor of pharmacology in the University of California Medical School, has received official notification of his election to the presidency of the History of Science Society of the United States at the recent meeting of the Society in St. Louis. According to Doctor Leake, the honor was conferred because of the leadership of the University in the study of the history of science as exemplified by the works of Professor James Westfall Thompson of the department of history, Dr. Charles Kofoid, chairman of the department of zoölogy, Dr. William A. Setchell, professor of botany, emeritus, Dr. V. F. Lenzen, associate professor of physics, Dr. Herbert Evans, professor of anatomy, and the late Professor Florian Cajori.

The University has been enabled through this study to attract leading scientific scholars to present courses on the Berkeley campus. Leake's work relates to certain phases of Roman hygiene, and includes a translation and commentary of Harvey's work on the circulation of the blood, a work on medical ethics and another on the history of anesthesia. He is now working with Professor Henry Lutz of the department of Egyptology on a commentary on the Hearst medical papyrus, a prized possession of the University, which Doctor Lutz has translated. He is also working with Dr. J. B. de C. Saunders, associate professor of anatomy, on an appreciation of the works of Vesalius and other anatomists of the sixteenth century.

The Society is endeavoring to popularize a study of the history of science as the best means of acquainting the public with scientific advances. To this end it is coöperating with the University and the California Academy of Sciences. The headquarters of the Society are in Washington, D. C.

Medical Fraternity Dinners at Coronado Annual Session.—Medical fraternities desiring to plan banquets for the State Medical Association meeting in May, please have representatives communicate with the undersigned: General Committee, State Association Meeting, 1410 Medico-Dental Building, San Diego.

Sixth International Congress on Physical Medicine. The Sixth International Congress on Physical Medicine will be held at London May 12-16, 1936. It will consist of sections on kinesitherapy, physical education, hydrotherapy and climatotherapy, electrotherapy, actinotherapy, radiotherapy, and radium therapy. American participants will sail from New York on May 2 on the motor vessel *Britannic* and return on May 31 on the steamship *Transylvania.* Dr. Richard Kovacs, 1100 Park Avenue, New York, is executive of the American Committee.

Tuberculosis Mortality by Age Groups.—The "Bulletin of the California State Board of Health" announces completion of a study of tuberculosis mortality by age groups in California since 1910. It is interesting to note that during recent years the reduction in the tuberculosis death rate has been most outstanding in those from thirty-five to forty-four years of age. The highest rate is in individuals who are sixty-five years of age and over, although the tuberculosis death rate for infants is still very high.

Chiropractors in California.—A news item gives the following:

"Fifty-two chiropractors who passed examinations held last month in Sacramento have been added to the 3,300 licensed by the state to practice their profession, Dr. C. O. Hunt, executive secretary of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, announced recently. . . .

"The new additions to the profession bring California's total of licensed chiropractors to well over one-quarter of the total number of licensed chiropractors in the entire world. Los Angeles County alone has 1,685 licensed chiropractors, Doctor Hunt reported."

California's New Registration.—A news item in the lay press gives figures showing why it was desirable that no attempt should be made this year to secure the 200,000 valid signatures of voters, necessary to place the basic science initiative on next November's ballot form.

"Registration of Los Angeles County voters passed the three-quarter of a million mark today when County Registrar William M. Kerr announced that 754,265 had enrolled.

"The registrar, however, estimated that there still was a half-million persons eligible to vote who had not yet registered. They must do so not later than March 26 next if they desire to take part in the presidential primary on May 5 and must state party affiliations when registering in order to vote for delegates to the party national conventions. . . .

Too Many Claims.—Although not nearly so common as they used to be, there are still occasional quack medicine venders who stick to the old and illegal labels that claim for their nostrums curative powers over at least a good part of the ills and ailments that affect mankind.

Recently, for example, drug inspectors picked up samples of what were labeled "Devonshire's Earth Salts," marketed by F. S. Powers & Co., Crystal Lake, Illinois. These were offered as a treatment for the following assortment of diseases and conditions: pneumonia, cancer, diphtheria, typhoid fever, kidney and bowel trouble, appendicitis, intestinal worms and tapeworms, locomotor ataxia, nervous disease, rheumatism, stomach trouble, skin diseases, malaria, high blood pressure, boils, abscesses, goiter, tumors, stomach ulcers, chills, colds, bronchitis, snake-bites, delirium tremens, diabetes, venereal diseases, heart trouble, sterility in men and women, and also for "other disease conditions."

The nostrum got into interstate commerce and that brought it under the Federal Food and Drugs Act, which penalizes sweeping claims not founded on fact and contrary to medical experience. A federal court fined the seller.

A Press Dispatch States, "Science Isolates Virus Causing Common Colds."—The long elusive cause of the common cold has been kept bottled up successfully for twenty months in a test tube at Columbia University.

Dr. A. Raymond Dochez, professor of medicine at Columbia School of Medicine, announced recently that this long period of artificial cultivation, completely away from the human body, makes it certain that the cause is an invisible virus.

In the Columbia tube there are no bacteria or other forms of infection visible. But in all the twenty months its liquid contents have retained the power to give a human being or a chimpanzee violent cold. In all that time the invisible cause has lived and reproduced itself on chicken embryo for food.

This work of Doctor Dochez is in line with other medical experiments pointing to the same common cold cause, and to a double "complex" as the mechanism of human colds.

In this double complex the invisible virus is the basic cause. Its function is to weaken the respiratory organs. Thus weakened, the organs are attacked by common, visible bacteria, which bring the complications familiar to cold sufferers.

Qualifications for Public Health Nurses.—The California State Board of Public Health, at its regular November meeting, established the following qualifications for a certificate in public health nursing, as provided in Section 4225b of the Political Code:

1. Applicant shall be a registered nurse under the law of California.

2. Applicant who has completed a course in public health nursing from a school whose curriculum has been approved by the California State Board of Public Health may receive a certificate without examination.

3. Applicant who presents evidence of having engaged in public health nursing for a period of two years in connection with a public health organization approved by the State Board of Public Health may receive a certificate of public health nursing on passing on examination.

4. All applications for examination as public health nurse shall be filed in the office of the State Department of Public Health, 312 State Building, San Francisco.

5. All applications shall have attached to them an affidavit, sworn to before a notary public, as to qualifications outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3.

6. These regulations shall be in force and effect on and after January 1, 1936.

A Doctor's Odyssey: Le Roy Crummer.—Le Roy Crummer, internationally known heart specialist and book collector, had a passion for life and a genius for friendship. The volume, "A Doctor's Odyssey," by A. Gaylord Beaman, and from the Johns Hopkins Press, gives an intimate and sympathetic portrayal of Doctor Crummer, who was kindly, generous, humorous; whose life was useful and, at the same time, colorful; who evolved a philosophy of living that was an inspiration to the younger medical men. Doctor Crummer had the finest private collection in this country of early medical books and the details of his trips abroad, when he bought his books, makes fascinating reading.

The volume, as will be seen by the contents overleaf, is divided into six biographical parts: Early Years, The Doctor, The Bibliophile, The Writer, The Instructor, and The Man. Many contributions have been made by Doctor Crummer's close friends, including such well-known persons as Dr. George Dock, the famous heart consultant in Pasadena; Dr. Herbert M. Evans, scientist and discoverer of vitamins E and F, and director of the Institute of Experimental Biology at the University of California; Dr. Logan Clendening, author of "The Human Body" and many other popular books. Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, director of the Institute of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, and Paul Jordan-Smith, author and critic, are among those who have written of Doctor Crummer as a bibliophile. A. Edward Newton, famous bibliophile and author, is responsible for the introduction. A complete list of the contributors will be found in the contents.

Dried Fruits.—At the holiday season many complaints were received relative to the poor quality of dried fruits that were placed in fancy packages for Christmas trade. The packers made a serious effort to prepare a first-class Christmas fruit pack, but some of the smaller concerns have been guilty of attempting to recondition moldy, insect-infested fruit for consumer consumption. An investigation revealed one lot of one thousand pounds of dried fruit that was considerably below standard. This was in a single packing plant. It was quarantined and resorting denied, as the material could not be brought up to standard. During November approximately five thousand pounds of unfit dried fruit were destroyed by order of the California State Board of Health.

Vitamin E Crystallized: Successful Research at the University of California.—The last of the major vitamins to be isolated in a comparatively pure form, vitamin E, has just been reduced to a crystalline derivative by Dr. Herbert M. Evans, professor of experimental biology, and two associates, Dr. O. H. Emerson, and Mrs. O. H. Emerson, on the Berkeley campus.

Vitamin E is the sterility preventing food factor. It occurs in many foodstuffs, notably in lettuce and the germ centers of cereals such as wheat and rice, and is an essential for reproduction in animals. Human beings practically always obtain sufficient quantities of it from a balanced diet, but the diet of animals sometimes is deficient in this respect though otherwise adequate.

The successful isolation of vitamin E in a crystalline derivative marks the close of thirteen years of research by Doctor Evans and his associates since the vitamin was first discovered by him at the University of California.

The final step in this process was taken by Dr. O. H. Emerson and Mrs. O. M. Emerson, both graduates of the University, working with Doctor Evans. Previously the vitamin E potent substance had been concentrated in the form of a thick red oil obtained from wheat germs which was active enough to prevent sterility in rats if given in a single dose of one or two one-hundredths of a gram. Efforts to further purify the substance were unsuccessful, however, until Dr. and Mrs. Emerson applied a chemical method which they had learned in Germany.

This method consists of the use of cyanic acid as a reagent. This acid leads to the formation of crystals in the red wheat germ oil, and when these crystals are removed and dissolved they yield a substance which will overcome vitamin E sterility of rats in single doses of three one-thousandths of a gram.

The potent substance is classified as a form of higher alcohol and an empirical formula has been suggested. The exact formula will require further research. It is pointed out that there may be other substances which are vitamin E potent, as vitamin A is found in at least five naturally occurring substances. But the crystalline derivative now obtained is expected to provide a means of studying the precise chemical structure of vitamin E.

The United States Public Health Service: Surgeon-General's Report to Congress.—In his annual accounting of the public health of the United States, the Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service, reporting on the activities of his organization for the 137th year of its existence, states that health conditions in general remained good during the year ended June 30, 1935. For the calendar year 1934 the preliminary death rate was 10.9 per 1,000 population, slightly higher than in 1933, in which year the rate was 10.5, but lower than any recorded rate earlier than 1932, when the death rate was 10.8 per 1,000.

It is of especial interest to note that the birth rate increased in 1934, being three per cent higher than in 1933; which, being stated in another manner, means that there were 94,000 more babies born in the United States in 1934 than in 1933. The birth rate in this country has been decreasing for several decades.

The infant mortality rate, that is, deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births, increased slightly in 1934 as compared with 1933, the rates for these years being 59.9 in 1934 and 58.2 in 1933; but the 1934 rate was lower than the rate for any year earlier than 1932.

The tuberculosis death rate continued to decrease, and the 1934 rate of 56.2 per 100,000 population was the lowest ever recorded by the Pacific Health Service.

In May, 1934, an outbreak of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) occurred in California, and reached its peak in June. For the year the incidence of this disease was higher than usual in the Pacific Coast states and in the Northwest. In the early summer of 1935 an outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred in North Carolina and Virginia, and later increased incidence of the disease was noted in most of the New England States, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Kentucky, and some of the other states.

A fatal case of bubonic plague occurred in Lake County, Oregon, in May, 1934, and a case was reported from Tulare County, California, in June. This disease, which is also a disease of rodents, is propagated on the West Coast principally in ground squirrels and rats, and is transmitted from rodent to rodent and from rodent to man by infected fleas. The extension of the infection northward into Oregon and Montana was noted for the first time in 1934. Rodents carrying this infection were found in California, Oregon, and Montana during the year.

A total of 5,371 cases of smallpox was reported to the Public Health Service for the calendar year 1934, the smallest number for any year since records have been kept. In ten states and the District of Columbia no case of smallpox was reported in 1934.

During the year 254,551 cases of syphilis and 161,810 cases of gonorrhea were reported to the Public Health Service by state health departments. That these figures do not represent the true conditions regarding the prevalence of venereal diseases, however, is shown by special surveys, which indicate that there are approximately 518,000 new cases of syphilis in the United States each year and 1,555,000 cases of gonorrhea. The importance of extensive and concerted effort on the part of all health organizations in combating these diseases is emphasized, if progress is to be made against them.

During the year a study was begun of the possible value of two vaccines used for the first time on human beings to produce immunity against the dreaded infantile paralysis, and the findings will have an important bearing in determining whether or not the use of such vaccines is safe and should be continued. Laboratory experiments showed that monkeys treated intranasally with sodium sulphate solution were rendered resistant to intranasal installation of poliomyelitis virus. The outbreak of this disease in California in 1934 was mild as to severity and showed a tendency to attack older children and young adults to a greater extent than in former years.

The net production of Rocky Mountain spotted fever vaccine in the fiscal year, 284.4 liters, was 36.6 liters more than in 1934, and about one-fifth of the supply was furnished to the Emergency Conservation Corps in the infected areas. Cases of this disease were reported for the first time in Illinois and Oklahoma, and new endemic areas were reported in Montana, Idaho, and California. The disease is now known to be present in thirty-four states.

Studies of various phases of the relation of sickness to the depression were continued, and great differences in sickness rates were found between persons on relief and those not on relief.

Further studies on growth and the economic depression showed that there were no striking differences between the weight of children in 1934 as compared with the average weights from 1921 to 1927.

In the milk investigations on the bactericidal treatment of milk-cans by hot air, it was found that a temperature of 170 degrees Fahrenheit for thirty minutes devitalizes all milk-borne pathogenic organisms.

The first Federal Narcotic Farm located at Lexington, Kentucky, was dedicated and opened for admissions on May 29, 1935. This institution is for the care and treatment of addict prisoners from federal penal and correctional institutions and for those narcotic addicts who voluntarily apply for treatment. It has one thousand beds. The other Narcotic Farm will be located at Fort Worth, Texas, and it was expected that the contract would be let during the latter part of 1935.

Pacific Coast Surgical Association.—Clinics for members only were held Wednesday morning at the University of California Hospital, and Thursday morning at the Lane-Stanford Hospital. Wednesday noon there was luncheon for the members and their wives at the San Francisco Golf Club. In the afternoon they played golf.

Wednesday evening the members were guests at a special dinner entertainment which had been arranged for them at the Bohemian Club.

The members left by special train at three o'clock Thursday afternoon for Del Monte, where the scientific sessions were held for the next two days. Friday evening the annual banquet took place, at which Dr. Frank Lynch of San Francisco was toastmaster.

The officers of the association are: President, Dr. Harold Brunn of San Francisco; first vice-president, Dr. Raymond E. Watkins of Portland; second vice-president, Dr. William A. Taylor of Ellenburg; secretary, Dr. Edgar L. Gilcreest of San Francisco.

Councilors—Doctors E. C. Moore (chairman) of Los Angeles, Homer D. Dudley of Seattle, Howard C. Naffziger of San Francisco, Joseph K. Swindt of Pomona, and Eugene W. Rockey of Portland.

Important subjects which were discussed in Del Monte included: surgery of the lungs, abdomen, pelvis, nerves, stomach, blood vessels, and the bladder. A special symposium on graduate instruction in surgery was held.

Incidents in a Medical Fairy Tale: The Dionne Quintuplets.—In the last five hundred years there have been thirty-three cases of quintuplets authentically recorded. Of these one group of five lived for fifty minutes, and one out of another group survived for fifty days.

Birth.—A "hurry up" call to the Dionne home at 4 a. m. on May 28, 1934, marked the beginning of a visit which resulted in the commencement of this fairy tale. The mother was suffering from pre-eclampsia and did not expect to be confined for two more months. On arrival at the home two babies were born, a third arriving, and that one was followed in a few minutes by two more.

It seemed impossible that all or even any of these babies would survive, but they were wrapped up in the only available coverings and kept as warm as possible. There was only one placenta.

The early struggle for the continued existence of these babies was intense, and the anxiety great. (There have been many other cares and worries associated with the survival and growth of these babies, due to the world-wide publicity which they have received.)

Temporary Guardianship.—Toward the end of July, 1934, a temporary guardianship board was appointed by the government, with the consent of the parents, to circumvent certain exploitation plans.

Hospital Reception.—On September 22, 1934, the five babies were removed to their new hospital home, where details of infant care could be properly carried out. There was a decided improvement in their general health following this move.

Since then there has been a normal progress in their physical and mental growth. With the exception of an upper respiratory tract and middle-ear infection, they have been free from all other ailments.

Wards of the Crown.—In March, 1935, the Dionne Quintuplets Guardianship Act was passed by the Ontario Government which made the Dionne quintuplets special wards of the Crown.

*At One Year.**—At one year of age, the babies are healthy and happy; their skin is tanned, their muscles firm, and their bones well proportioned. In physical appearance they resemble one another closely, but not so in temperament. A scientific psychologic study has commenced and will be carried on in the future. This investigation shows all the babies to be "at age" intellectually and developmentally, with the larger two slightly above.

The Future?—It would indeed be a wise man who could tell what the future has in store for these babies. Every effort will be made to keep them healthy and surround them in their growth period with the best traditions of their race, their religion, and their country.

* In January, 1936, these babies were nineteen months old.

New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital. At a meeting of the Clinical Society of the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital held on January 6, the following program was presented: (1) "Surgical Treatment of Primary Carcinoma of the Lung" by Dr. Richard H. Overholt (Lahey Clinic, Boston, Mass.). The discussion was opened by Doctors Howard Lilienthal, Chevalier Jackson, and Pol N. Coryllos. (2) "Surgical Management of Prostate Obstruction" by Dr. Joseph F. McCarthy. The discussion was opened by Doctors Oswald S. Lowsley, Abraham Hyman, Clarence G. Bandler, and Daniel A. Sinclair. Dr. Russell L. Cecil gave an afternoon lecture on Wednesday, January 22, on "Backache."

Taffari Makonnen Hospital, Dessie Wollo, Ethiopia.*

"I suppose you have read in the papers about our hospital in Dessie. The hospital was bombarded a little more than a week ago. We had a very exciting time. About six weeks ago we began to feel that there was a war going on. Large armies passed through Dessie on the way to the northern front, and many of the soldiers became sick on the way. This is the only hospital between Addis Ababa and the front, situated two weeks' marching distance from the capital.

"We have a capacity of fourteen beds, but during the last few weeks have had an average of sixty-five patients. This number was greatly increased for a couple of days just after the bombardment. You can imagine what an extra load it has put upon us and the hospital. We operated all the day of the bombardment until about nine-thirty in the evening, and there was so much to do that we worked long after before we could retire. Fortunately for us, there were several Red Cross ambulances in the town that day. They were on their way to the front. When the attack came, they helped greatly. It would have been impossible for us to carry on alone, as I am the only practicing physician between Addis Ababa and the north front to care for all the wounded. We have millions of people from which to draw our patients. Many died shortly after they were brought in; others lived for a day or so. We saw torn-off extremities, opened-up abdomens, lacerated faces, and broken skulls. It was terrible. People who fled the city are now returning and coming in for treatment. Their wounds are in an awful condition, as you can readily understand. The natives usually put dirt and filth in the wounds so as to keep them from bleeding too much.

"The conditions we work under are rather primitive. We have no electricity, no running water, and our helpers are untrained natives. When the hospital was bombarded, fire started in two of the rooms. We just happened to have water enough on hand to stop the fire. Our well is located about four hundred meters from the hospital and all the water has to be carried on a donkey. During these days we have two donkeys going all day, and even then it has been impossible to have water enough. Another thing that makes our work very difficult is that the sun sets about six o'clock and it is dark about fifteen minutes later. Then, we have to get out the old stable lanterns and carry them with us whenever we have to see the patients, and that is very often, of course. I am always afraid that a serious case may come in at night. Not long ago a soldier was brought in about five-thirty in the afternoon. His abdomen was cut open and the intestines handing outside in a dirty 'shamma' (toga). I had to operate. The old kerosene lanterns had to be hung on the outside of the windows, as we had only ether to use. It was not an easy thing to sew up five big lacerations in the bowel by such a light. However, we got through, and the man lived for a few days. Had we a good light it certainly would have helped a great deal. One afternoon twenty-one wounded men came in at one time, but we finished with them before dark. When things like these happen, I envy you at home who have all the most modern equipment at your disposal. Our work here is watched more closely than yours at home and the results or lack of results reported among the superstitious people." . . .

* Excerpt from a letter written under date of December 16 from A. R. Stadin, class of 1934, College of Medical Evangelists, Los Angeles, who is in charge of the Taffari Makonnen Hospital, Dessie Wollo, Ethiopia:

Widespread Deception Found in Rubbing Alcohol.—Rubbing alcohol is frequently adulterated and misbranded, federal drug officials find. In recent years rubbing alcohol compounds have been used widely for massage and bathing purposes. In December and January, activity in inspecting and testing supplies on the market have led to seizures involving 13,000 bottles, shipped under various names by dealers in the Eastern States. In all the seized rubbing compounds, the examining officials found isopropyl alcohol instead of ethyl (grain) alcohol. One lot—in a class by itself—contained only 2 per cent of isopropyl alcohol, although the label on the shipping case claimed "70 per cent alcohol."

Isopropyl alcohol, relatively a newcomer among the commercial alcohols, is a by-product of the petroleum refining industry. It is known that this alcohol, when taken into the human system, is destroyed and eliminated very slowly; that is, its harmful effects are relatively persistent. For this reason, its use in foods such as flavoring extracts has been vigorously opposed by the Food and Drug Administration, and its use in drugs for internal use is subject to like attack.

W. G. Campbell, Chief of the Administration, stated today, however, that the recent actions do not depend on proof of harmful effects from isopropyl alcohol. "It is not known whether harm does result from its external use," he said, "but federal courts have repeatedly stated that one of the purposes of the Food and Drugs Act is to enable purchasers to buy foods and drugs for what they really are."

It was pointed out that it is misleading to label an isopropyl alcohol mixture in such a way that the package is an imitation of the well-recognized rub made up almost entirely of ethyl alcohol. This mislabeling is, therefore, in violation of the Food and Drugs Act. The purchaser does not receive the article he is led to expect. In some of the recent cases, the word "isopropyl" or the chemical symbols C_3H_8OH appeared in small letters on the labels, but the Administration does not consider either of these additions sufficient to inform the purchaser of the true nature of the article, especially in view of the prominent designation "alcohol" or equivalent expressions on the label. The Administration has taken the position that the labels of isopropyl alcohol preparations intended for external bodily use should show the exact nature of the article, without any accompanying words or trade names which tend to confuse the article with ethyl alcohol.

LETTERS

Concerning extended activities in federal chronic illness survey.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SACRAMENTO

February 4, 1936.

To the Editor:—Enclosed please find copy of letter which I have just received from the Surgeon-General, in reference to extending activities under a chronic illness survey* now being conducted in this State.

Very truly yours,
WALTER M. DICKIE, M. D.,
Director of Public Health.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
WASHINGTON

January 28, 1936.

Dr. Walter M. Dickie,
Director of Public Health,
Sacramento, California.

My dear Doctor Dickie:

As proposed in the original plans for the health inventory, now being conducted in several community areas within your jurisdiction, arrangements have been completed to institute a study of the medical facilities available for health and clinic service. Additional information will be obtained on first, the out-patient department of hospitals, dispensaries, and other clinics; and, second, additional data will be gathered of local health agencies or units of government, and of other organized medical facilities which operate a clinic service. The schedules are designed to obtain data on budgeted expenditures, personnel by type, and to provide an expression of the volume of the medical services provided.

These studies will be conducted by the local Health Survey organizations as at present constituted. A medical officer of the U. S. Public Health Service has been assigned to lend advisory technical supervision for the conduct of the work. A representative of the Facilities Survey organization will confer with you at the earliest favorable opportunity, and solicit information pertinent to the work. It is contemplated that the territorial unit selected for the survey will be extended to include those health or clinic service agencies which operate within the area of a major political subdivision, such as a county or other major political division.

Appreciation is expressed in advance for your assistance in obtaining the information on a comparable basis, which is necessary to the successful conduct of the survey.

Respectfully,
H. S. CUMMING,
Surgeon-General.

* See also February issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 138.

Concerning a California public health training school: In affiliation with the United States Public Health Service.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SACRAMENTO

February 4, 1936.

George H. Kress, M. D.,
Member, State Board of Public Health,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Doctor Kress:

Enclosed please find copy of my reply to Doctor Pomeroy, under date of February 4, on the subject of the Social Security Act.

Very truly yours,
WALTER M. DICKIE, M. D.,
Director of Public Health.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SACRAMENTO

February 4, 1936.

J. L. Pomeroy, M. D.,
County Health Officer,
Hall of Justice,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Doctor Pomeroy:

I desire to acknowledge your letter of January 24, the subject of which is the Social Security Act. I have not replied to your letter before this, as I have been trying to get a little more data.

It is my understanding that there is to be a school of public health established on the Pacific Coast, out of funds set aside under the Social Security Act, to be administered by the United States Public Health Service. The only function of this Department is to act as the field agent of the Public Health Service in administering funds for scholarships and maintenance of the students.

This school of public health will have to serve some ten western states in the education of their health personnel. There is a movement on foot to request that the school be located in the Bay area, under the auspices of the University of California and Stanford University. I understand that the State of Washington is also making a bid.

I would refer you to Dr. Karl F. Meyer, Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, for more detailed information as to what is proposed.

Very truly yours,
WALTER M. DICKIE, M. D.,
Director of Public Health.