C. Ralph Cornwall, and the application for transfer from Utah County of O. Sundwall.

President Raley read a communication from Stuart Pritchard of the Battle Creek Sanitarium who has done special work on bronchiectasis, and who would be in Salt Lake City on May 28. He announced that a special meeting would be held on that date.

Immunization Against Diphtheria—It has been found that soaps—chiefly of the unsaturated fatty acids—and preferably sodium ricinoleate, detoxify bacterial toxins, with the exception of botulinic toxin, and that such soap-toxin mixtures are antigenic. Having found that experimental animals, as rabbits and guinea-pigs, may be immunized with such detoxified toxins, W. P. Larson and Howard Eder, Minneapolis, tried them on human subjects. It was found that solutions of highly purified sodium recinoleate caused no reaction other than a slight burning sensation at the point of injection, which lasted only a few seconds. Diphtheria toxin-soap mixtures were then injected into a group of laboratory workers who had been found to be Schick positive, each subject receiving 0.125 L + toxin in a 1 per cent soap solution in a total volume of 1 cc. The injections were followed by a mild local reaction, which followed the course of an ordinary positive Schick test. Later, 2 per cent soap solutions were used and the injection was made intramuscularly; in this way, the reactions have been eliminated. The use of sodium ricinoleate as the detoxifying agent eliminates the danger of sensitization to foreign substances, since it is not antigenic. Whatever the technic of antidiphtheritic vaccination may be, it is imperative that the injections cause little or no reaction. The sodium ricinoleate method of modifying the toxin is equal to antitoxin in this respect. After having satisfied themselves that diphtheritic toxin-soap was fully equal to, and in many respects superior to, toxin-antitoxin as an immunizing agent, Larson and Eder felt that they should thoroughly investigate the possibility of immunizing with one treatment and, further, to determine the optimal interval between treatments for the best results, should repeated injections seem necessary. In one group, immunity developed in 38.5 per cent of cases within five weeks following one injection. In another group, 66.6 per cent became negative to the skin test in eight weeks. This was undoubtedly a particularly favorable group, since only 52 per cent of a larger group gave a negative test after twelve weeks. However, the fact that a 1 per cent soap solution was used instead of a 2 per cent may be a factor. Repeating the number of injections does not seem to increase the number of negative skin tests within the first twelve week period. Out of a group of twenty-three subjects given two injections at an interval of seven days, only 47.8 per cent gave negative tests twelve weeks from the time they received the first treatment. Retests which are now under way indicate that the percentages of negative skin tests will be very much higher at the end of the six-month period. On the basis of these results, the authors do not hesitate to recommend the sodium ricinoleate method as safe and effective in immunizing against diphtheria.

The theory that the end products of protein catabolism are renal irritants and by relieving the kidney of the necessity of excreting these products the organ is rested, has been one of the principal reasons why protein has been so restricted in nephritic diets. In addition to this the production of nephritis in rabbits by diets containing excessive amounts of protein has been interpreted as a support of this theory. In recent literature, however, there is an indication that many internists are beginning to believe that the restriction of protein in the treatment of renal diseases has been carried to an extreme that is not adequately justified.—International Medical Digest, April, 1926.

An enterprising gum manufacturer has added iodin to gum, presumably with the idea of giving the gum-chewing damsel with goiter an opportunity of obtaining treatment in an agreeable way.—Journal Indiana Medical Association.

MEDICAL, HEALTH AND HEALTH AGENCY NEWS

The Dean of Stanford University Medical School has announced the appointment of Arthur L. Bloomfield of Johns Hopkins as Professor of Medicine, effective with the beginning of the year 1926-27.

The tenth annual meeting Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Mills College, California, June 16 to 19, 1926. Persons interested should address W. W. Sargent, secretary, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

James T. Watkins, M. D., of San Francisco became

president of the American Orthopedic Association at the recent session of that organization in Atlanta.

The Federated Women's Clubs of California continue active in efforts to improve county hospitals. At the annual meeting recently held in Riverside, reports showed that some counties were adding children's departments to their hospitals.

This is exceedingly important work. Many of the county hospitals do not even deserve the name. In buildings, equipment, organization, and methods of conduct several of them are obsolete. More power to the Federation in its efforts at improvements.

That invitation to doctors to subscribe to a lecture course offered by the Extension Division of a great university and delivered by nonmedically trained teachers on nutrition in health and disease, is causing some interesting comment.

The course is to consist of fifteen hours of instruction, will make a survey of the scientific fundamentals of nutrition, particularly the more recent theories and evidence, with applications to the feeding of infants and children, pregnant and nursing women, fever patients, nephritics, diabetics, and other sick persons for whom dietetic care is indicated.

A committee of American Association of University Professors has drawn up a striking indictment of the game of football, which contains most of the familiar charges against this much discussed activity. Distortion of values, destruction of interest in academic prestige, encouragement of drinking and gambling, are some of the things for which football is held responsible. The only remedies offered are the suggestions that students be limited to one year's play in the course of their college career, and that the number of games with outside institutions be radically reduced.

It is possible that some of the indictments drawn

against football ought to have a broader target. The adulation of physical achievement, hysterical enthusiasm, misplaced emphasis, and unbalanced rewards are to be found in almost every phase of human activity. Perhaps it is not football that should be put on trial, but the human race.—The Outlook.

The perennial political row over the alleged shortcomings of the Fresno County Hospital is again in full bloom. Newspapers are featuring various and sundry stories, and the grand jury is said to be using a "probe."

Fresno County has an able and experienced hospital executive, and he has already served longer than most capable administrators stay in hospitals controlled by county politics. The Fresno hospital is one of the few county institutions to attain recognition by the great medical and hospital organizations.

"Probes" in the hands of people not familiar with the complex problems of hospitals are dangerous weapons; liable to injure the patient and sure to cripple public confidence in a worthwhile humanitarian service.

St. Joseph's Hospital staff, San Francisco, observed "Hospital Day" on May 12 with an interesting program. T. D. Bodkin outlined a case of mitral disease with acute dilatation, and later spoke on "Types of Splenomegaly," describing a patient operated upon with an immense spleen, and a history suggesting malaria, where a probable primary sarcoma (unremovable) was encountered. Samuel Barmak reported cases of pneumonia, induced abortion, secondary anemia, gastric carcinoma, and fracture of skull. W. T. Cummins gave "Echoes of the Medical Conventions," reviewing as follows the annual meetings of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists at Dallas and the State Medical Association at Oakland:

Sickle cell anemia is not rare in the South. A photographic method for recording blood cells was described, and the irrefutable evidence so presented was stressed. The importance of the consideration of normal sugars in urine and of the technics, as well as the exogenous sources of these, were reviewed. A starch-tolerance meal instead of sugar was urged. Frozen section technics should be supplemented by the longer paraffin technics for corroborative diagnoses. The integration of hospital laboratory work embraced an earnest plea for greater co-operation and for the clinician to learn more about laboratory medicine. A study of the x-ray treatment of amebiasis eventuated in moderately beneficial results. A comparison of the Kolmer and Kahn technics showed that the latter does not supersede the former, but that both blood serum tests should be used.

At the state meeting the advantages of the cerebrospinal use of lipiodol were noted in tumors of the cord. The use of emetin in chronic arthritis was recommended with caution in its administration. Acidosis-inducing diets were urged for epileptics. Agranulocytic angina with marked leukopenia and depression of the polymorphonuclears was observed in teeth extraction. Arteriosclerosis in rabbits was induced by diets rich in amido-acids.

Discussing amebiasis, Otto Laist reported but little pain with emetin injections where small doses were used, but G. D. Schoonmaker urged against these insufficient amounts. A. S. Musante discussed abdominal drainage, favoring rubber tubes in appendicitis with rupture before or during operation and cholecystectomy. Aspiration of acute empyemas and approximation of parietal and pulmonary pleurae later were advised. Perinephritis from boils was treated with drainage and sufficed usually.

The program for June 9 follows: "Interesting Points Concerning Neuroses Following Injuries," Joseph Catton; "Recent Results with Mercurochrome," William Quinn, hospital report, including mortalities and collation.

St. Francis Hospital, San Francisco, has New Managing Director—Dr. L. B. Rogers, who has been appointed to this position, received his M. D. from New York University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, 1905. Graduate study: Intern Bellevue Hospital, New York City, 1905-07. Intern Women's Hospital, New York City, 1907-08. Practice limited to hospital planning, construction, and administration. Previous honors and services: In September, 1914, assisted in planning and organizing the American Ambulance in Paris; attending surgeon there from September, 1914, till February, 1915. From February, 1915, to September, 1915, was with the Serbian government in hospital work during the typhus epidemic of 1915. Regimental Surgeon of the Sixty-fourth Infantry, Seventh Division, and served with troops during the Meuse-Argonne offensive and the Saint Mihiel drive. Assistant Division Surgeon and Acting Division Surgeon, Seventh Division. Chief Medical Adviser in Bureau of War Risk Insurance in 1919. District Manager Veterans' Bureau in 1921. Executive Officer and Assistant Director Veterans' Bureau, 1922-23. Medical Director Veterans' Bureau, 1923-24. Commanding Officer United States Veterans' Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut, 1925. Organizations: Bellevue Hospital Society and Woman's Hospital Society, New York; New Haven County Medical Society; Connecticut Medical Society; American Medical Association; American Public Health Association; American Hospital Association.

The French Hospital of San Francisco has recently issued an attractive annual report which contains much information interesting to hospital workers.

Children's Hospital, San Francisco—The graduating exercises of the School of Nursing, class of 1926, took place on the evening of Tuesday, May 18, at the Fairmont Hotel, and was an occasion of unusual interest, as occurring in the fiftieth anniversary year of the founding of the School of Nursing of this old institution so full of tradition and of valued associations for the people of San Francisco in whose hearts the hospital, with its "Little Jim" ward and other interesting departments, has so long held a very warm place.

The evening in the beautifully lighted ballroom of the Hotel Fairmont was brilliant, and the program of exercises an entertaining one. First came the march by the hotel orchestra followed by the invocation pronounced by the Rev. E. N. Van Nuys. A group of songs was then well rendered by Mr. Harold Dana, and the address to the graduating class, given by Miss Mary L. Bently.

J. B. Cutter, director of the hospital, then led the graduating class in the acceptance of the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which was followed by the awarding of diplomas by the vice-president of the Children's Hospital, Mrs. Henry Sahlein.

The presentation of the class pins by the superintendent of the School of Nursing was a pretty ceremony gracefully presided over by Ada Boye, R. N., and the exercises closed with the rendition of a fine musical offering by the Fairmont orchestra.

The following young ladies who have completed their training at the Hospital for Children and Training School for Nurses composed the graduating class who with their friends enjoyed the remainder of the evening in dancing:

Edna Lucretia Bailey, Mildred B. De Armond, Helen M. Duffee, Mary J. Gate, Josephine Lillian Handelin, Edith M. Kerchenfaut, Dorothy Grace Simpson, Dorothy Rose Brooke, Marjory Elizabeth Cathcart, Ione Renvy Glass, Charlotte Grossman, Mae Eugenia Kelley, Florence Evelyn Sorsoli, Grace M. Stahley, Virginia Elizabeth Standley, Olga W. Swanson, Gertrude M. Trank, Sadie Alice Whitehead.

The calling of the first national adult weight conference under the combined auspices of the American Medical Association and the "Delineator" was an interesting movement in the popularization of health for the masses.

A number of prominent physicians and publishers took an active part in the congress, and its results will be published by the "Delineator" from month to month. Here for the first time a great organization of physicians and a popular magazine with millions of subscribers have combined to put over a health program authoritatively so that all who can read may understand.

A little more cultivation of this idea and it will soon be more difficult for the hundreds of thousands who are

making a living out of weight reducing to find audiences of such magnitude.

It is quite likely that there will be other combined conferences on other phases of health between medical authorities and great publishing houses for the production of honest information about health, which we hope will replace the ridiculous propaganda that is now being sent out haphazard.

E. O. Crossman, Medical Director United States Veterans' Bureau, has appointed a board of physicians to study the residual effects of war gases.

The study will necessitate the investigation of the present or recent condition of upward of 70,000 ex-service men of whom there are hospital records of having been gassed.

History of Medicine—The Committee of the California Medical Association now engaged in the study of the history of Western medicine, California medicine in particular, is making progress.

John W. Shuman, 2007 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, is actively engaged in the preparation of a history of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

When all the data which are now being brought together on the development of medicine in the western United States is completed, there will be a splendid opportunity for some one competent to do that work to write an interesting narrative on the most important phases of its development.

The co-operation of all members with the California Medical Association committee, as well as the committees of the various counties, is urgently needed to make this work a success.

St. Luke's Hospital (San Francisco) Clinical Club held its regular meeting May 6, 1925, Leroy Brooks presiding. The subject of the day, "The Physiology and Pathology of the Hypophysis," was presented by F. C. Nass. In outlining his subject, he stated that the pituitary gland is one of the four glands of internal secretion that have particularly to do with the physical makeup of a person, especially with his growth. His growth may be affected by heredity, by environment—intrauterine and extrauterine—and by the subsequent workings of these glands. There are six conditions generally ascribed to pituitary disorders. They are: hypophyseal infantilism or dwarfism, or ateliosis; gigantism; acromegaly; adiposogenital dystrophy, with three main clinical types, the Froelich type, the Levi-Lorraine type, and the Neurath-Cushing type; diabetes insipidus; cachexia hypophyseopriva, or Simmonds' disease.

All varieties, grades and combinations of the above, and of these with other glands, especially of the gonads, the adrenals, less often the thyroid, are met with.

The anterior lobe has the only apparent hormone which affects growth, although at times it seems injurious to growth. There is evidence that it has another hormone which affects ovulation adversely. There are cytological and morphological indications of possibly three anterior lobe hormones. The middle lobe, the posterior lobe, the stem, and the region of the tuber cinereum are classified by Biedl as a sort of functional unit, and lesions in either one of these parts can bring on typical disturbance of metabolism, and he assumes that the active principle obtained from the posterior lobe is a middle lobe product. The posterior lobe product affects the circulation, the respiration, the carbohydrate metabolism, and the water and salt excretion by the kidney in a typical way.

Professor Evans and others refuse to consider the middle lobe function and a metabolic center as necessary.

Gentlemen, you are about to enter a noble and difficult profession; your success in it depends upon three things: First, a good and thorough knowledge of your profession; second, an industrious discharge of its duties; third, the preservation of your moral character. Without the first, knowledge, no one can wish you to succeed. Without the second, industry, you cannot succeed. Without the third, even if you do succeed, success can bring you no happiness.—Rudolph Matas, Address to Interns, New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal.

READERS' FORUM

Selected short letters and abstracts from longer communications from readers are published when they remain within the bounds of decorum and law and contribute anything of value. Hereafter the name and address of the writer will be given. A pen name will be published on the author's request, and letters to the editor not intended for publication should be marked "personal."

Hermosa Beach, Calif., April 20, 1926.

Dear Editor: Many of the physicians in our section are watching with considerable concern the apparent tendency of county health activities toward state medicine. Recently in the adjoining town of Redondo Beach the medical profession made a practically unanimous protest to the city trustees against the encroaching activities of the county health department. Representatives of the women's club and the county health department were present in open meeting and apparently the doctors gained little but a loss in popularity.

A few days later the county health officer met with the Southwest Branch of the Los Angeles County Society at Torrance at which time their difficulties were discussed. The local physicians' contentions and grievances were about as follows:

1. Free baby clinic conducted at the women's club by the county health department gives medical advice and treatment, especially to the well-to-do, there being few poor in attendance. They reach the physicians' patients through the birth registration by sending a nurse to visit new mothers asking them to bring their babies for free advice to the clinic.

2. County health department advertises and gives free vaccination to all. The physicians contend those able to pay should come to the family physician.

3. School nurses give treatment and at times criticise physicians' treatment. They also give out cards of out-of-town physicians.

4. At times the impression is left with families under quarantine by the health department that the family physician is very much inferior to the personnel of the health department. One physician made the remark that he did not think any $150 per month man was his superior.

In reply the county health officer said in effect that:

1. Baby clinics are not intended for treatment being only educational. He admits they give feeding advice. (One of the physicians in reply says that feeding is 90 per cent of pediatrics. The objection here made by physicians is that through advertising and publicity patients are being weaned away from private doctors.) The health officer replied that there is nothing to hinder local men from running their own free clinic.

2. Free vaccination is a necessary public health measure and that many cultists will come to a public health office for vaccination who would not go to the physician. He claims that this all has educational value that in time would work great advantage to public and physician alike. (Some of the doctors were hard-boiled enough to think that a few deaths from smallpox among cultists were of vastly more educational value and in the end would be instrumental in saving many more lives; morbidity would be reduced, and the public would be enlightened and ultimately benefited.)

3. He seemed to think treatment of simple skin diseases by school nurses necessary as the only practical means of handling the situation. Recommendation or giving out of cards of physicians is not countenanced by the department, he states.

4. He seems to think his "diagnosticians" superior to general practitioners.

It is the general opinion of the physicians of this community that the above methods and activities are detrimental to both the public and the physician and tend toward state medicine. The health officer pooh-poohs the fear of state medicine. He also says that the public is demanding such activities and will have them; if not at the hands of the health department then from the department stores, etc. The former, in his opinion, is better.