

make for correct hygienic living among the people. The institution, while it has a small endowment, is poor and depends largely on private beneficence. It therefore makes an appeal for support and particularly for assistance in building up its health and research department, to the end that it may, in its special field, attain the best results in fostering and improving the health, culture and practical efficiency of these real American citizens.

#### CARELESSNESS VS. MISREPRESENTATION

Those who have followed the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry and of the Association Laboratory in their efforts to safeguard the interests of the medical profession and the public will be interested in the report on bismuth iodo-resorcin sulphonate that appears in this issue. The case there presented is not one in which a manufacturer has deliberately misrepresented his product; rather it is a case of carelessness. In submitting its product to the Council, the firm made statements which it could, and should, have known were not true. The question arises: if a firm is careless enough to make incorrect statements to the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry which it knows will critically examine the claims, what degree of "carelessness" may be expected when the products are exploited direct to physicians? The answer, which must occur to any thinking person, is such as to make one pause.

#### EMPLOYMENT FOR CURED TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS

With the rapid increase in sanatoriums, both public and private, for the treatment of tuberculosis, the employment of the considerable number of persons discharged from them with the disease either arrested or cured has become a problem of importance, and one that is not easy of solution. It is believed by many with experience in this regard, however, that unless the conditions are too bad, or impossible, the ex-patient with his sanatorium education in hygiene and correct living, should return to his former occupation. It frequently has been found that perhaps the fourteen or sixteen hours outside of the shop or office have contributed more to the patient's breakdown than the eight or ten working hours. The readjustment to a new occupation is not always feasible, and may entail financial sacrifices that are impracticable for the patient. In cases in which it is not possible for the patient to return to his former occupation, a partial solution of the problem has been found in the training of the discharged women patients as nurses for the care of tuberculosis patients. This plan was adopted in the Phipps Institute in 1903 and has been extended to the White Haven Sanatorium in Pennsylvania, to the Ohio State Sanatorium and to other institutions where training-schools have been established. Dr. Lawrence F. Flick,<sup>1</sup> in describing the results of this work in Pennsylvania during the past seven years, says that it is the unanimous opinion of those who have watched these graduates in their work

that the occupation of nursing consumptives is one of the best which a cured consumptive woman can take up for the preservation of her own health; and that the cured consumptive who has been trained for tuberculosis work makes by far the best nurse for tuberculosis patients. The confidence which such cured patients get from their experience, and the living evidence of the curability of tuberculosis which they themselves furnish, help them to win the confidence of their patients and to secure their cooperation. There are more demands from sanatoriums and dispensaries for these graduate nurses than can be supplied. The entrance of such trained women into this field brings a missionary spirit which means much in the crusade against tuberculosis.

#### THE DANGER FROM TRANSMISSION OF INFECTIOUS MATERIALS BY MAIL

Occasionally complaints are made to the effect that the sending of pathologic and bacteriologic materials through the mails by physicians and others constitutes a dangerous menace to public health. There is no good reason for fear of this kind at the present time. The postal regulations prescribe with great exactness just what materials of the kind now in mind may be sent and how they must be packed in order to be accepted for transmission. Failure to follow instructions is subject to heavy penalties. The packages required certainly appear proof against accidental spilling. The only possible danger will arise from improperly and carelessly packed materials. So far as it is now known, there are no records of definitely established instances of spread of infection through carelessness of this nature. But it should be borne in mind that it is not only a great convenience but in most cases an actual necessity to send material away for examination; in probably the majority of the cases this is done in order that public health may be protected by the application of the results of the examination. It is needless to say that whatever the mode of transmission, all infectious materials must be so packed as to avoid all danger, and that this simple duty is everywhere fully recognized by the conscientious physician.

#### OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THIS COUNTRY

It is said that an application has been made to the collector of internal revenue at Chicago for a license to manufacture opium for smoking purposes. As the revenue law forbids the importation of opium, except for medicinal purposes, the applicant was naturally asked where he expected to get his supply. He replied that he expected to produce it himself from a plantation already in existence in this country. If this is true, it affords some room for reflection. Laws against the importation of opium will be of little effect if its production is successfully undertaken in our own country; and how far this may be done is worth investigating. In view of our wide range of climate and soil there is little doubt that the opium poppy can be successfully cultivated here. In fact, opium of good quality has been produced in the

<sup>1</sup> Jour. Outdoor Life, January, 1911.