

United States, but hitherto the expense has been prohibitory from a commercial point of view. If opium can be cultivated here in commercial quantities, some legislation is needed. When China is prohibiting an abuse which is disastrous to the physical and moral welfare of the people, it is no time for the United States to encourage it. Opium should be produced only under the strictest regulations.

NEED OF CAUTION IN THE USE OF SALVARSAN

The introduction of a new drug or the announcement of a new method of treatment is always attended by two possible evils. One is the unwarranted optimism aroused by the claims made by over-enthusiastic advocates. This evil is corrected by time, added experience and critical investigation, and while it often leads to disappointment, it is apparently unavoidable. The second and far more dangerous evil is the exploitation of the new discovery by the faker and the quack who are quick to seize the golden opportunity offered and to use the public interest for their own selfish advantage. Such has been the history of every great discovery in medicine. It therefore behooves both the medical profession and the public to exercise a healthy skepticism regarding first claims made for any newly discovered method of treatment. In view of the enthusiasm which greeted the discovery of salvarsan ("606"), it is not surprising to know that it is not fulfilling the first claims made for it and that the public interest aroused by it is being used by fakers and charlatans to deceive and defraud the public. In another department of THE JOURNAL¹ appears a discussion of our present knowledge of salvarsan, its limitations and dangers and the use which is being made of it by quacks. It is the duty of every physician to inform himself on this subject so as to be able to enlighten his patients and the public. In the general enthusiasm over the discovery of a drug which gives promise of being a valuable addition to our armamentarium, it must not be forgotten that salvarsan is an arsenic compound and, as such, is a dangerous poison unless used intelligently; that it can be administered only hypodermically or intravenously, and consequently cannot be self-administered by the patient; that its use may be followed by serious and even disastrous results, and that it should, in no case, be taken except under the personal direction of a competent physician. The extent of the ravages of specific diseases is shown by the almost universal interest aroused by the announcement of this discovery. Physicians and medical societies should see to it that this interest is not taken advantage of by quacks to exploit, to their own gain, the diseased and the unfortunate.

Repair of Fractures.—From a practical viewpoint, the processes entering into the repair of fractures are manifestly those of effusion and infiltration and their proper management; resorption of the effused fluids and particles of destroyed tissue material; the utilization of the callus to the best advantage by ideal fixation; retention following the fixation; and to these principles may be added the prevention of callus redundancy, which is usually the result, it may be added, of undue mechanical irritation or imperfect approximation.—G. F. Roehrig, in *Denver Medical Times and Utah Medical Journal*.

1. See page 436.

Medical News

CALIFORNIA

New County Society.—The Tulare County Medical Society has been organized at Visalia with the following officers: president, Dr. Thomas DeH. Blodgett, Tulare; vice-president, Dr. Mark L. Pettit, Visalia, and secretary-treasurer, Dr. F. Leslie Stallings, Lindsay.

Physicians On Trial.—Dr. Willard P. Burke, Santa Rosa, charged with having dynamited a tent-house where a former employee and her child were sleeping, is said to have been found guilty, January 27.—The coroner's jury in the case of Millie Conée who died at the Mount Zion Hospital, San Francisco, recently, rendered a verdict that the girl had died from the effects of an abortion, which was inflicted by herself. The verdict completely exonerated Dr. Marion Thrasher.

Personal.—Dr. C. W. Harvey, Anaheim, has succeeded Dr. Clayton L. Rich, Fullerton, as district and local surgeon for the Santa Fe Railroad.—Dr. and Mrs. William H. Mays, Newman, sailed for the Mediterranean, February 4.—Dr. Charles L. King, Pasadena, fractured his left leg and sustained many bruises and cuts, in a collision between his automobile and a street car, January 21.—Dr. William F. McNutt, San Francisco, was painfully injured by falling on a slippery pavement.—Dr. George L. Eaton, San Francisco, has been unanimously elected president of the local board of health.

CONNECTICUT

New Superintendent.—Dr. Donald L. Ross, assistant physician in charge of the reception of patients at the King's Park Hospital for the Insane, New York, has been appointed superintendent of the Connecticut Colony for Epileptics, Mansfield.

Donates Tuberculosis Pavilion.—A gift of \$25,000 has been made to the town of Greenwich by Mrs. Nathaniel Witherell for the erection of a tuberculosis pavilion on the grounds of the Greenwich General Hospital, to be known as "The Nathaniel Witherell Memorial."

Society Meetings.—The surgical section of the Hartford Medical Society at its annual meeting, held January 3, reelected Dr. Arthur J. Wolff, chairman; Dr. Ernest A. Wells, secretary; Dr. Thomas N. Hepburn, treasurer, and Dr. Charles E. Taft, member of the executive committee.—The Bristol Medical Society at its annual meeting elected Dr. Charles R. Upson, president; Dr. E. Parker Sanborn, vice-president, and Dr. Benedict N. Whipple, secretary and treasurer.—The annual meeting of the Hartford Medical Society was held in Hunt Memorial Building, January 2, and the following officers were elected: president, Dr. Marcus M. Johnson; vice-president, Dr. Oliver C. Smith; secretary, Dr. Albert R. Keith; assistant secretary, Dr. Edward A. Hotchkiss; treasurer, Dr. George K. Welch; librarian, Dr. Walter R. Steiner, and censors, Drs. Charles S. Stern, John B. Waters and Edward O. Elmer.—The Society of Regular Physicians held its annual meeting in New Britain, January 3, and elected the following officers: Dr. Catherine H. Travis, president; Dr. James H. Potts, vice-president; Dr. George H. Bodley, secretary and treasurer, and Drs. Maurice W. Maloney, William W. Brackett and Samuel W. Irving, censors.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Personal.—Dr. Percy G. Smith, superintendent of the District Tuberculosis Hospital has resigned and has been succeeded by Dr. William D. Tewksbury.—Dr. Harvey W. Wiley has been elected president of the Cosmos Club.—Dr. Ernest P. Magruder has returned from abroad.—Dr. Benjamin R. Logie has succeeded Dr. Presley B. Hunt, deceased, as alienist for the district.

District Society Election.—The Medical Society of the District of Columbia, at its annual meeting, elected the following officers: president, Dr. Wilfred M. Barton; vice-presidents, Drs. Walter A. Wells and Hanson T. A. Lemon; corresponding secretary, Dr. Thomas C. Smith; recording secretary, Dr. Henry C. Macatee; treasurer, Dr. Charles W. Franzoni (thirty-ninth term); librarian, Dr. Edwin L. Morgan, and censors, Drs. D. Olin Leach, Henry B. Deale, Francis R. Hagner, Joseph S. Wall and John F. Moran.