

opinion as to the nature of the poison. As is well known, margarine was originally prepared by adding to minced beef tallow the stomach of the sheep or the pig in order to digest the tissue particles adhering to the tallow. The tallow prepared in this way was separated by pressure from the solid stearin-containing constituents, and the liquid oleomargarine was mixed finally with milk and macerated cow's udder and churned to butter. As a result of the favorable reception of oleomargarine which was first produced in Germany in 1876, the production has increased with us to the extent that the annual output is estimated at 200,000,000 pounds, having a value of about \$25,000,000 (100,000,000 marks). In consequence of the competition between various manufacturers, there has been an attempt gradually to cheapen the method of manufacture and this has been accomplished, mainly by the substitution of vegetable oils for the animal fat. Among the latter, cotton-seed oil, poppy oil, peanut oil, corn oil, sunflower oil and coconut oil have been used. Many factories have also used other oils, the origin of which was not given and the preparation of which was not always unobjectionable. In fact it has been shown that the cases of poisoning referred to must be attributed to the use of such an oil. Professor Dunbar found that the foreign oil was Maratti fat which is in consistence, color and smell identical with oil of cardamom. It was obtained from the seeds of the *Hydnocarpus*, a large tree common in India. The Maratti fat is sold in England as Moratti oil and is derived from a species of *Hydnocarpus* closely allied to the *Hydnocarpus kurzii* from which chaulmoogra oil is derived. *Hydnocarpus* seed oil has an appearance and composition very similar to that of chaulmoogra. One of the varieties from which the oil is derived is *Hydnocarpus anthelmintica*, and it is used as a vermifuge. Moratti oil is known commercially in Germany under the name *Kardamonöl* (not the same as oil of cardamom). The poisonous butterine consisted of more than 50 per cent. Maratti fat. Professor Dunbar demands that margarine factories shall be placed under official inspection, for the present cases of poisoning show that severe injury may result from its manufacture and that there is no assurance that the factories at any time may not use in the production of oleomargarine some oil even more injurious than the Maratti.

VIENNA LETTER

(From Our Regular Correspondent)

VIENNA, Jan. 19, 1911.

The Jubilee Hospital

The municipality of Vienna decided to erect a special large hospital to commemorate the jubilee of the Emperor of Austria two years ago, and a fund of over \$2,000,000 was granted for the purpose. The hospital is now finished and will be opened shortly. A committee consisting of medical men, experts in hospital building and other persons interested in the institution, was shown through the hospital a few days ago. The four leading ideas which the municipality wanted to bring into existence were: The hospital must not contain a clinic (for teaching), or any ward for infectious diseases; without undue centralization, the pavilion system should be adopted as little as possible, while large garden tracts were especially desirable; the outfit and the "running" of the hospital must be entirely up to date in scientific and technical respects; it should be also specially fitted for postgraduate work of the municipal physicians. The area at disposal was 152,000 square meters, or 2,710,000 square feet, of which only the space of 162,000 square feet is covered by buildings. The rest has been turned into parks, streets and pathways. For instance, one of the courtyards (or rather park yards) measures some 270,000 square feet. The hospital itself contains eight wards: the medical ward with 236 beds; a tuberculosis ward with 248 beds; one for surgical cases, with 118 beds; a gynecologic ward, with 48 beds; a large urologic ward, with 126 beds, which will be the largest ward of its kind on the Continent; a skin department, with 136 beds; 50 beds for eye cases and 18 for nose-and-throat cases. These 980 beds are accommodated in three huge buildings. There is a natural difference of ground level of 162 feet in this area, so that several institutions could be located, so to say, underground; thus, for instance, the x-ray department is so situated and the department of sterilization of bed-clothes and utensils. One of the most interesting features is the central bathing establishment. It contains all instruments necessary for hydrotherapeutic, electrotherapeutic, physiotherapeutic, phototherapeutic and mechanotherapeutic procedures, including a high-frequency current outfit. The tuberculosis ward faces south and is filled with open-air bedrooms and balconies. One wing of the central pavilion serves as home for the

nurses (sisters). There will be altogether 110 sisters, who will have twenty-eight rooms for themselves. The hospital contains the following rooms: thirty-six ward-rooms with double daylight illumination, containing from eighteen to twenty-six beds; six rooms for patients, with from six to twelve beds with single daylight illumination (only windows); fifty-four rooms for patients, with one or two beds; thirteen out-patient halls; twelve rooms for minor surgery and out-patient treatment; eighteen laboratories; seventeen bathrooms, besides the central bath; twenty-two kitchens and as many washing rooms; sixteen rooms for the medical staff, and besides, the necessary rooms for the chemists, the post-mortem department, the managing clerks, the receiving office, etc. Everywhere special care is taken to make the patients feel at home; therefore, all clinical experiments will be excluded; this has been one of the objections to the plan on the part of medical men. Apart from the large park where patients will be encouraged to spend as much of their time as possible, the supply of air per patient, filtered and warmed fresh, has been calculated with 40 cubic meters, or 1,200 cubic feet in the rooms, and the diet will be controlled by a committee of the local magistrates, to insure its good quality and taste.

Congress of Stomatologists in Graz Condemns Proposed Anti-Medical Legislation

The Austrian stomatologists are at present engaged in an earnest fight against certain attempts to permit medical practice by non-medical men. The government is pressed by a certain group of politicians to permit the technical dentists to practice the whole of stomatology without university examination. Protests by all medical corporations have been organized (THE JOURNAL, Nov. 26, 1910, p. 1906) and a lively campaign is going on just now. The Austrian stomatologists, at a recent meeting in Graz, demanded the erection of special dental colleges and the establishment of dental clinics in schools. The congress was of the opinion that the handing over of this important branch of surgical and prophylactic medicine to non-medical men, as threatened by the "dentists' act," meant "a permanent danger to the national welfare and spelled diminished resistance to outward dangers."

Miscellany

ADVERTISING SALVARSAN TO THE PUBLIC

The Truth About 606, the New Treatment for Syphilis, Discovered by Ehrlich and Hata

Ever since the discovery of salvarsan, popularly known as "606," THE JOURNAL has advised caution in the use of this powerful drug. The wide-spread prevalence of syphilis, and the speedy and wonderful results which this new remedy was said to have produced, at once aroused wide popular interest. Inquiries were made everywhere of physicians who were no less interested and sought reliable information concerning it. Its discoverer was fairly deluged with letters and telegrams asking for information and even demanding supplies of the drug. The medical journals at home and abroad, as well as the daily press, contained glowing accounts of its marvelous effects, some of the stories in the newspapers being of the most sensational sort. The discoverer of the drug did not allow it to be placed on the market for over a year after its discovery, but supplied it to a few selected physicians, so that it might be used under favorable conditions. It was administered to a large number of patients who consented to its use, in order that the exact indications and results might be determined. Its use in Europe was limited to a few large hospitals. A supply was sent to the Rockefeller Institute in this country and was given out to a selected list of men, in order that its value might be carefully tested. Dr. Ehrlich insisted that it must be used in at least ten thousand cases and the results reported to him before he would allow the drug to be sold. He pointed out that it was a most powerful drug and, if used in any but suitable cases, might do great harm.

In the light of our present knowledge, the drug seems to have a striking effect, destroying the living organism which causes syphilis, and healing—temporarily at least—superficial lesions on the skin and mucous membrane of the