

instrumentalists, but even the publication devoted to Wagner and all things Wagnerian is edited by a member of our profession.—*Lancet*.

INVITATION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITION.—In connection with the Tenth International Medical Congress to be held in Berlin, between the Fourth and Tenth of August, there is to be an International Medical and Scientific Exhibition. The exhibits will be of an exclusively scientific nature, as follows :

New or improved scientific instruments and apparatuses for biological and strictly medical purposes, inclusive of apparatuses for photography and spectral analysis, as far as applicable to medicine.

New objects and preparations in pharmacological chemistry and pharmacy.

New foods.

New or improved instruments subservient to any of the departments of medicine, including electrotherapy.

New plans and models for hospitals, convalescent homes, and disinfecting and bathing institutions and apparatuses.

New arrangements for nursing, including transportation, baths, etc.

New apparatus in hygiene.

Applications or inquiries inscribed "Ausstellungs-Angelegenheit," and accompanied with a printed card containing the name and address of the firm thus applying, ought to be directed to the Secretary General, Dr. O. Lassar, Carlstrasse, No. 19, Berlin, N. W., Germany.

R. VIRCHOW, President.

AN UNTOWARD EFFECT OF SULFONAL.—As yet no well authenticated case of death following its use has been reported. Owing to this absence of directly traceable and immediate injuriousness, sulfonal has been recommended as an ideal hypnotic, having none of the after-effects of other remedies of this class. This is not the case, for in predisposed persons, it gives rise to untoward results, the same as other hypnotics. The fact that when it fails to produce sleep, a decided loss of equilibrium and a marked sensation of drunkenness is felt, ought to put us on guard as to its promiscuous and prolonged use. In various instances it has

seemed to me that sulfonal had a peculiarly dulling influence upon the mind, in those already suffering from mental trouble. My suspicion became a certainty when the following case came to my knowledge: A gentleman of 43, of nervous temperament, had been troubled with various symptoms of neurasthenia, precipitated by heavy losses in business. For over two years insomnia was one of the complications, for which sulfonal was used with the most gratifying effect. While drifting, like the typical neurasthenic, from doctor to doctor, he remained true to his sulfonal, which he took at a dose of 30 grains, originally prescribed for him. In the last five months he is said to have used more than 10 ounces. More than four months ago his family noticed a peculiar change in his manner, manifesting itself under the form of apathy and listlessness. He would answer questions put to him after marked and painful delay, as if comprehension was labored and unnaturally slow. Things and persons in whom he had formerly taken the keenest interest, became indifferent to him. He made mistakes in his books, which it took him a long time to discover; the computation of sums, formerly almost a matter of play to him, became laborious, and was at times impossible; naturally punctual in his affairs, he forgot his engagements: in short, his memory and judging power became visibly impaired, so that his partner suspected beginning softening of the brain, and insisted on an examination. During all this time the patient himself had no idea of his mental state, but did not show any surprise at the suggestion to withdraw temporarily from business and undergo a course of medical treatment. An examination revealed the facts detailed above, and especially the abuse of sulfonal, of which the family were cognizant without suspecting any deleterious action on the patient's mind. One week after the cessation of the drug, the first signs of mental improvement set in, marked by the declaration of the patient that he felt like awakening from a long sleep. After this, the recovery was very rapid, there being a perfect realization on his part as to the danger he had passed through. His memory and reasoning powers are apparently absolutely normal; so his friends assert.—*L. Bremer, i St. Louis Courier of Medicine.*