

his advanced age. The curate advised the application of cold compresses to the knees and to the nape of the neck. This treatment produced most unfortunate results; the Pope took cold, and his knees became so swollen that he was obliged to call upon his ordinary physician. Monseignor Kneipp, says our contemporary, is no longer in the odor of sanctity at the Vatican.—*New York Medical Journal*.

**PATHOLOGY AS SHE IS WROTE.**—The following, under the caption of "Snakes in the Blood," is a reporter's idea of *Filaria Sanguinis Hominis*: "A discourse on the disease of which King Herod died entertained the doctors who gathered at the Section on General Medicine. It was read by Dr. G. Laussure, of Charleston, S.C. In the disease described, little white snakes get into the blood and wriggle about until the patient dies. Several of these were exhibited. The doctors call the disease *Filaris Hominis Sanguinis*, and it occurs at the present time only rarely. The snakes, which are long, white substances, retire to the secluded organs of the body in the day, when the subject is moving about, but come into the veins and arteries at night when he is sleeping."—*Medical Record*.

**THE EFFECTS OF MEDICAL LIFE ON THE PHYSICIAN HIMSELF.**—In the great majority of cases the special influence of the medical life of the present day is to broaden the views of the man who lives it, to make him independent in judgment; rather sceptical as to the occurrence of the millennium in the near future; quite incredulous as to the truth of the maxim that "all men are born free and equal"; more inclined to consider and perform the immediate evident duty of the day and hour which lies just before him than to reflections upon the errors of other men; free from morbid fear of death, and of that which comes after death; and none the less a believer in the existence of a Supreme Being and in the fundamental principles of religion, although he may not consider them capable of scientific demonstration.—John S. Billings, in the *International Journal of Ethics*.

**WHAT BECOMES OF PHYSICIANS' CASE-BOOKS?**—The question has been recently asked, in terms of anxiety not unmingled with suspicion. What becomes of the case-books of a consultant after his death? It is impossible for us, of course, to say what means have been taken to secure secrecy in all such cases, but we may safely infer the general practice from particular cases. The care which is taken by all physicians in large practice to protect their notes from curious persons is seen in such precautions as the private drawer and the padlocked cover. The disposal of such records after the death of the consultant is, no doubt, carefully regarded in all cases. Sometimes the records are made over to a son, or other successor in practice, either to be used for the benefit of the patients, who may return for subsequent consultations, or for the purpose of scientific investigation, as in the instance of the notes of the late Dr. Williams. In two other cases, well known to us, the note-books were consigned to a medical friend for scientific uses, and in a third the volumes were consigned to the furnace of the plant houses by a member of the family.—*British Medical Journal*.