

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The committee of arrangements for the fiftieth meeting to be held in Philadelphia on June 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1897, announces the meeting of the association there will be for a week preceding and a week succeeding the association meeting special courses and clinics given in the various large teaching institutions of Philadelphia, without cost to visiting physicians. This course has been organized in response to a generally expressed wish that opportunities might be given to visiting physicians of taking clinical courses, for it is believed that many physicians from distant points would be glad to spend a week or two in this manner over and above the time occupied by the meeting. A schedule and roster, describing the course in detail, will be published shortly before the meeting. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Edward Martin, No. 415 South Fifteenth street, Philadelphia, the chairman of the committee on hospital courses.—N. Y. Medical Journal.

THE CRAZE FOR OPERATING.

Some surgeons think they are underserving of their calling, unless they can point with pride to case books filled with the records of operations and jars filled with various organs, while too often graves are filled with their patients. It is not so much the technical skill and the modern instruments that make a surgeon celebrated, as it is his good judgment and ability to forecast a prognosis which shall stand after the operation. It is well-known everywhere that many unnecessary operations are done, organs removed and exploratory laparotomies performed, partly for the patient's good and partly to add to the surgeon's statistics.

An item is going the rounds of the medical press to the effect that a man who is in fear of becoming unconscious on the street, and being carried to a hospital and operated on, before a diagnosis is made, wears, sewed in a conspicuous place on his underclothes, the

inscription: "My appendix has been cut out," thus insuring himself against an operation for appendicitis.

This is probably the invention of some witty newspaper man, but it has its moral. Operations for diagnosis should not be undertaken without the best council, and then not without some deliberation.—Maryland Medical Journal.

MEDICAL MEN TO AVOID.

The one who has acute exacerbations of insanity when exposed to any new fad. The one who is always successful with all his difficult operations. The one who always sees hundreds of cases of rare disease. The one who can always match your case and improve on your treatment. The one who always finds you have omitted something in the examination of your case. The one who thinks he can talk well and is always ready to discuss any paper of the evening. The one who is always first to do the new operation. The one who is in a chronic fear of being anticipated in his important discoveries. The one who in consultation feels it his conscientious duty to explain to the patient why he differs with the attending physician.—Medical Record.

ON THE FATTY MATTERS FOUND IN THE EGYPTIAN TOMBS OF ABYDÓS.

The author has examined certain antique objects found at Abydos by M. Amelineau and considered to be anterior to the first dynasty. The fatty matter consisted chiefly of palmitic and stearic acids, and was doubtless the tallow of beef or of mutton. It is interesting to find that the fatty acids, such as the stearic and palmitic acid, and even the glycerides of these acids, have been capable of preservation for thousands of years. Among the substances found in small vases was pulverised lead sulphide mixed with a quantity of fatted matter; evidently a cosmetic used as antimony sulphide is still employed in the East.—C. Friedel.