

wealthy preferring to employ eminent physicians, for whose service they are well able to pay. So the young medical graduate waits and waits, often eking out a precarious existence "living as a gentleman on forty pounds a year." The pharmacist's legitimate occupation is already invaded by the substitution of ready-made pharmaceuticals of every kind, by the free dispensaries and clinics, as well as by the fraternal societies who furnish medical attendance for a song and medicines at cost. Let physicians be careful about prescribing pharmaceutical specialties; let them frown upon the unprofessional puffing which these preparations receive in the medical journals. Let us see that dispensaries and clinics are not abused, to the despair of the young practitioner and the grievous injury of the drug trade. On the other hand, let pharmacists be more cautious to avoid exercising the functions of physicians by declining to give advice when asked for it, except in most trivial matters.

#### AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the American Public Health Association will be held at Philadelphia, Pa., October 26 to 29, 1897.

The Executive Committee have selected the following topics for consideration:

- (1.) The Pollution of Water Supplies.
- (2.) The Disposal of Garbage and Refuse.
- (3.) Animal Diseases and Animal Food.
- (4.) Car Sanitation. (5.) Steamship and Steamboat Sanitation. (6.) The Prevention of the Spread of Yellow Fever. (7.) Transportation and Disposal of the Dead. (8.) The Relation of Forestry to Public Health. (9.) Nomenclature of Diseases and Forms of Statistics. (10.) Cause and Prevention of Infectious Diseases. (11.) Public Health Legislation. (12.) Cause and Prevention of Infant Mortality. (13.) Transportation of Diseased Tissues by Mail. (14.) River Conservancy Boards of Supervision. (15.) The Period During which each Contagious Disease is Trans-

missible, and the Length of Time for which each Patient is Dangerous to the Community. (16.) Sanitation, with Special Reference to Drainage, Plumbing, and Ventilation of Public and Private Buildings. (17.) Some Method of International Arrangement for Protection Against the Transmission of Infectious Diseases. (18.) Disinfectants. (19.) Existing Sanitary Municipal Organizations of the Countries belonging to the Association, with a view to a report upon those Most Successful in Practical Results.

The President of the Association is Henry B. Horlbeck, M. D., Charleston, S. C. The Secretary is Irving A. Watson, M. D., Concord, N. H. The Chairman of Local Committee of Arrangements is Benjamin Lee, M. D., 1532 Pine street, Philadelphia, Pa.

#### A NEW FORM OF LAPAROTOMY

In order to spare patients an unpleasant scar, Dr. O. Kustner, of Breslau (Monatsschrift für Geburtshilfe und Gynäkologie; Centralblatt für Gynäkologie, March 13, 1897), has devised the method of making a transverse incision through the skin and subcutaneous fat following a course coincident with a natural fold of the skin, more or less distinct, that occurs at about the upper limit of the growth of pubic hair in women. This superficial incision is held well open with retractors, and the structures through which it has been made are dissected up from the muscular layer upward and downward to a sufficient distance to admit of the ordinary median incision through the deep portion of the abdominal wall. In addition to the deep sutures, the transverse incision is sutured with silkworm gut, and, if primary union takes place, the linear cicatrix is rendered almost invisible by the pubic hairs and by the fact of its coincidence with the natural fold mentioned.