

is needless to express the folly of attempts to carry subdivision so far. As it is quite foreign to their purpose to go beyond the region of demonstrable fact, their triturates will be found to contain all the dilutions capable of real effects up to the limit of physiological and therapeutical power.

MEDICAL TEMPERANCE IN EUROPE.—It is admitted by professional men that, in the struggle to check inebriety, which has so largely occupied the most cultured intellects on the Continent of Europe, very little has been done in the advocacy of practical abstinence. The prevailing idea, it is alleged, even among members of the medical profession there, has been that the increase of insanity and of other evils from drinking has arisen from the heavier alcohols, and that pure, unsophisticated spirits, wines, and beers, are really temperance beverages. That a new departure is being made in this respect by members of the medical profession is evident from the fact that such men as Professor Forel, of Zurich; Professor Bunge, of Basle; and Dr. Wilhelm Bode, of Dresden, have established and are vigorously supporting total-abstinence societies in those cities.—*Times and Register*.

SYPHILIS IN NINEVEH AND BABYLON.—In *Le Progres Medical* for July 16th there is a *resume* of a brochure by F. Buret on an interesting legend that a scribe of Sardanapalus had engraved in cuneiform characters on a brick that is now in the British museum. Istar, the goddess of illicit love, fertility, and war, the mother of the gods and of men, seduced by the lustiness of Nimrod, had solicited that hero to take her as his wife. He ungallantly refused and continued to hunt in the woods with his comrade, Eabani, a male himself, for he also could uninterruptedly employ six days and seven nights in amusing himself with the *la lu* of his sweetheart. Outraged and indignant, Istar demanded that her father, Anu, should send the sacred bull against this rebel. But Eabani had no fear of ferocious beasts, and, seizing the bull's penis, threw it at the goddess's face. Istar's fury made all the planetary system tremble, and after twelve days of struggling, Eabani was struck by death. Nimrod was afflicted with a loathsome leprosy that made his hair fall out, and his body was covered with

scaly patches, and there were pustules on the phallus that was adored at Babylon. He descended into hell and was purified by the fountain of life. The author has given in a former work what he considers proof of the existence of syphilis among the ancients; and he finds in this legend of the punishment of Nimrod confirmation of all that he has written on the subject.—*N. Y. Medical Journal*.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL OF SEMMELWEIS. At the invitation of Sir Spencer Wells a preliminary meeting was held at his house on July 25, to consider a proposal to erect in Buda-Pesth a memorial statue to commemorate the work of a man who may be justly called the Father of Antiseptic Midwifery. It was Semmelweis, as is well known, who first demonstrated the true cause of puerperal fever. By the practical application of his teaching on the subject, the mortality of parturient women in the Vienna Lying-in Hospital was reduced from more than 16 per cent. to 1.27 per cent. in less than two years. In the words of Hebra, in 1849, "The importance of his work for the maternity department and for hospitals in general, but particularly for the surgical wards, is beyond calculation, and not only worthy of consideration by all men of science, but of special appreciation by the Government." Nothing has been done since the death of Semmelweis, in 1865, to perpetuate the memory of so great a benefactor of the human race. By the desire of the Central Committee in Buda-Pesth, Sir Spencer Wells has inaugurated a movement here, and it has been decided to call a meeting, in London, towards the end of October, when various proposals may be fully discussed.—*British Medical Journal*.

Births, Marriages, Deaths.

BIRTH.

MACKAY.—At 314 Brunswick Avenue, on August 20th, the wife of Dr. Wm. MacKay, of a son.

DEATH.

VERNER.—At 216 Wilton Avenue, on Sunday morning, Sept. 4th, Irene May, the beloved daughter of Dr. and Mrs. T. Verner, aged 10 months.