

that medical men are fair game for any and every imposition. A word as to the offensive clause of the act: "Such health officer shall receive the remuneration fixed by the municipality," (frequently nothing at all), "and shall hold office during the pleasure of the Council." He shall hold office during pleasure only, and shall have no right of action for wrongful dismissal. Now it will not require any great stretch of imagination to picture a case when the health officer of a municipality, in the proper discharge of his duties may cause offense to one or more members of the Council, who would soon start an active canvass for his removal from the position, but, no matter how just was his conduct, and how unjust his removal from office; under this one-sided piece of legislation he is without right of appeal of any kind. The 30th section of the act being unusually explicit on this point. We raise no question against the establishment of a board of health, and an act to cover the requirements, but we protest against these enactments saddling on the profession unremunerative work. In our every day life this is voluntarily given to a far greater extent than by any other body of men. But the time has come when we must more closely safeguard our own interests and a close watch on all legislation in any way affecting the medical profession by the committees appointed for that purpose will be a potent means to this end.

MISCELLANEOUS

MICROBES IN ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

Dr. Singer, of Vienna, has explained ninety-two cases of acute rheumatism and in a great number of patients has ascertained the presence of staphylococci and streptococci. He has examined the blood, urine, synovial effusion, and various complications during life. In three necropsies he was twice able to find the same microbes that he found during life; in one of them the synovial effusion was sterile, though the walls of the synovial cav-

ity contained bacteria; in the third case there were haemorrhages in the peri-articular tissue, and in these haemorrhages he found groups of streptococci. Singer considers that the necropsis explain why arthritic effusions in cases of acute rheumatism are found often to be free from microbes; in such cases the bacteria probably have their seat in the peri-articular tissues only.

One Woman and Her Doctor.—A wealthy San Francisco woman (Weekly Medical Review; Monthly Retrospect, April 15th) who had undergone an operation successfully performed by the physician she employed, was surprised when a bill of only \$50 was presented to her. She remonstrated, saying that the sum was not sufficient for the work done for one in her circumstances. But the doctor persisted that \$50 was his charge for that sort of operation, and her circumstances had nothing to do with it. She, however, sent him a check for \$500, and was surprised when she later received a receipted bill for \$450 for itemized services rendered to the poor humanity of the City. This pleased her so that she sent another check, which is being worked out in the same way.

The example is a good one and to the credit of both patient and doctor. Those patients whose financial ability renders them capable of recompensing their physician beyond the low rate which social conditions in many instances have established as the market value of his specific services would probably be more willing in this way to share in the doctor's unostentatious charities, while the physician who receives such supplementary fees does a service to his profession and humanity at large by calling attention to the vast amount of charitable work done by the medical brotherhood.

Death From Cutting a Wisdom Tooth.—M. Heydenreich reported to the Societe Medicale de Nancy on February 28th (Presse Medicale, April 9th) the case of a man, thirty-three years of age, brought to his clinic and said to be suffering from mumps. There was high and persist-