

foetus. His observations were made on cases of anthrax, and the bacilli were found not only in the amniotic fluid and on the surface of the foetus, but even to a depth of several cell layers in the skin over the abdomen. Curiously enough no germs were found in the internal organs. The micro-organisms, however, were not in every case found invading the foetal structures to the same extent, and only in cases noted as of "remarkably" long duration was the body of the foetus itself invaded. The field of invasion varied according to the length of duration of the case, from the "maternal placenta" alone to the foetal placenta, liquor amnii, and skin of the foetus itself. These observations were made upon rabbits. The question, then, as to the virulence of the foetal blood is still undecided, in spite of these investigations, since the mere finding of the bacilli, even in the foetus itself, is no proof of their power of infecting. The fact noted by Simon, that there were none of the gross lesion of anthrax present, seems to point in the opposite direction.

J. C.

## Correspondence.

*Editor of CANADIAN PRACTITIONER.*

It is to be hoped, now that some new blood has entered the Medical Council, that a move will be made towards its higher duties in connection with the practice of medicine. I refer to the establishment of an annual series of lectures, like the Gulstonian, Lumleian, and others. Scholarships for post-graduate work, original or experimental, and the printing and distribution by the Council of these to all members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. I feel convinced that until some such return is made to the profession, the annual assessment will remain a source of discontent and a bar to the amity which should exist between the Council and its graduates.

I do not feel like taking up your space, or would write in more detail on the subject.

Yours truly,

J. E. WHITE.

*Editor of CANADIAN PRACTITIONER.*

SIR,—In the last issue of your JOURNAL, in speaking of medical legislation in British Colum-

bia, you alluded to the rather unsatisfactory state of the Medical Act during the past year. What you said in that particular respect was all right, but when you go on to say that "the Medical Council was very apathetic in this matter" I assure you that you are entirely mistaken, and who ever informed you to that effect told you what was not correct. It would appear from your article that Dr. M. S. Wade, of Victoria, was the "champion" to whom the profession in British Columbia is indebted for the changes that have been made in the way of repeal of obnoxious and unjust sections of the Medical Act. As a matter of fact, Dr. Milne, our Registrar, and myself, as the two active officers of the Council, have been working incessantly since last spring to effect the changes that have now so happily been brought about, but we did so quietly, though none the less thoroughly, as the results show. We tried to obtain reciprocity with the General Medical Council of Great Britain, and that failing, we determined to ask for the repeal of the section in the Medical Act which allowed British graduates registered in Great Britain to practise in this province on the payment of a fee of only ten dollars for registration here, and we succeeded. I do not want to take any extra credit for what I did, inasmuch as all the other members of the Council did their duty in this respect faithfully and well. I may particularly mention Dr. John Davie, the brother of the Attorney-General of the province, whose aid was invaluable during the progress of the bill through the Legislature. Dr. Wade certainly wrote a pamphlet, and I have no doubt it had good effect in some quarters, but to claim that he did the work of the Medical Council is certainly ridiculous, and insulting to us as a body. Hoping you will give this insertion in your widely read JOURNAL, I am yours very respectfully,

W. J. McGUIGAN.

*President B.C. Medical Council.*

Vancouver, B.C., March 13, '90.

*Editor of CANADIAN PRACTITIONER.*

SIR,—In THE PRACTITIONER of 1st March is a clipping from the *Popular Science News* minimizing the "danger of contracting consumption in sleeping cars, when the berths have previously been occupied by those afflicted with