

time the Executive Committee have the right to choose the papers for publication.

The Chairmen and Secretaries of Sections will be elected hereafter, and we can only hope the choice will be as eminently satisfactory as that of the principal and executive officers has been.

THE PARASITIC ORIGIN OF GONORRHOEA.

The history of scientific research into the subject is very interesting. Neisser first demonstrated the presence of micrococci, which he claimed were peculiar to the fluid of gonorrhœa. Steinberg has since shown that these are the same as the micrococcus of Cohn, and that this ordinary bacteria may develop, under special conditions, into the pathogenic micrococcus of gonorrhœa. Dr. Amies has found the same bacteria to exist in the fluid of urethritis, provoked by purely artificial means. He has, however, found this difference, that in non-specific urethritis the micrococci are not nearly so numerous as in gonorrhœa, and argues from this that the specific character of gonorrhœal pus is acquired through this enormous increase of bacteria. He has also found that in simple vaginitis they exist in small numbers, whereas in the specific form they are found in great numbers.

The contagiousness, then, of the pus does not depend on the mere presence of this micrococcus, but on their very greatly increased numbers.

GASTON'S OPERATION.

In the October number of *Gaillard's Medical Journal*, Dr. Gaston, of Atlanta, Georgia, describes a new operation for obstructions in the gall-duct, which he thinks preferable to cholecystotomy. The object of the latter operation is to establish a fistulous discharge of the bile externally in case of closure of duodenal end of common duct. Fatal results have generally followed this procedure. It is contended that it never can be permanently successful, since the outward discharge of the bile would so destroy or impair nutrition as to make death inevitable sooner or later. Gaston conceived

the idea of making a fistulous opening, not through the abdominal walls with an external discharge, but through the walls of the duct and the adjacent duodenum, the bile being thereby still passed into the intestines. This operation, practised on dogs, has been successful in Dr. Gaston's hands.

THE NEW YORK STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

We are pleased to be informed of the successful inaugural meeting of the New York State Medical Association. It will be remembered that last year a division took place in the old State Society on the subject of medical ethics. The majority were in favor of what they termed greater freedom in the rules laid down for consultation, but which really meant freedom to consult with homœopaths and other irregulars. The minority remained true to the old code, separated themselves from the Society, and have now successfully formed a new Association.

The inaugural meeting took place in New York city, and the opening address was delivered by Dr. Didama. A large amount of solid work has already been done, and a project for the formation of a library and reading-room commenced.

We are heartily glad to hear of the success of this Association, and wish for it a prosperous career. We have never had the slightest sympathy with the so-called progressive men of New York city who commenced the movement to revise the old code. We hold that it is absolutely impossible for any man to consult regularly and systematically with homœopaths and retain his place in the profession as an honest, straightforward man. If he believes the dogma, let him practise it; if not, how can he honestly countenance it?

DR. BANTOCK AND MR. THORNTON.

The latest contribution to the correspondence between the English Abdominal Surgeons is from Dr. Geo. Granville Bantock, who replies to some observations recently made by Mr. Knowsley Thorntop. In this letter, which was