

compressed atmosphere at the top of the tube may not force back the index, when the support of the mercury in the bulb is withdrawn by cooling.

“In those forms where the ‘Indestructible index’ is maintained by a ‘trap’ near the bulb, the various constructions of this trap may, at certain points, cause the index to drop irregularly when the mercury below the trap has contracted, or may occasion a motion of the index by jumps: in fact, in most of the reliable instruments of this form, it is merely a question of the number of jumps taken by the index in rising one degree; most of those in which the index rises perfectly smoothly and without jumps will justify the suspicion that the index will drop as soon as the mercury in the bulb contracts from the trap. While the index is rising freely the motion may appear continuous, but when the index is within a degree or two of coming to rest and rising slowly, the jumps may, usually, easily be counted. Our recent practice has been that, when these jumps average $0^{\circ}.1$ or less, and the readings repeat themselves throughout within the prescribed limit of accuracy, the usual certificate is given: if the jumps average more than $0^{\circ}.1$ and less than $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$, the readings repeating themselves as before, we modify the certificate by making the limit of accuracy ‘ $0^{\circ}.2$ ’ on the same certificate form: and when the jumps average more than $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$, we give no certificate. The process of producing the trap leaves its walls in a somewhat unstable condition, so that moderate concussions may cause particles of glass to separate, which particles, acting as a plug, may temporarily sustain the index, which, when the plug is dislodged, may drop. The contraction here is so small, and the particles of glass so fine, that it is not always easy to detect them. The same dropping of the index may be due to the varying effect of air in the trap.”

Obituary.

THE LATE DR. DESROSIERS.—By the death of Dr. Desrosiers, which took place on the 28th of September, the profession loses one of its oldest members. The deceased had reached the ripe age of eighty years, fifty-six of which he had devoted to the practice of medicine.