JAMA Revisited

August 14, 1897

Miscellany

Personal.—Dr. Isaiah B. Sexton of Sparta, Kent County, Mich., is one of the thirty-three survivors of the 1812 war.

Large Bequests to Charities.—The will of Mrs. Nathaniel Thayer of Worcester, Mass., provides for some important institutions as follows: The Massachusetts General Hospital, $25,000; Eye and Ear Infirmary of Boston, $10,000; Lying-in Hospital and New England Hospital for Women, together, $20,000; Perkins’ Institution, $10,000; Convalescent Hospital for Children at Wellesley, $5,000; Home for Incurables, $20,000; Perkins’ Institution, $10,000; Convalescent Hospital for Children at Wellesley, $5,000; Home for Incurables, $20,000; and also about $90,000 for humane and religious bodies, chiefly located in Boston.

The Anatomy of the Novelist.—Our Gray is becoming pretty old, and the cover is getting loose. Some of the pages are torn and others are missing. We are in need of a new anatomy. This new anatomy should be in part original, and in part a compilation. The chapters that are compiled should be taken from the dissecting table. The chapters that are original should be taken from the works of the modern novelists of the romantic school. In a newly published novel that we recently picked up at a book stall we came upon the following graphic description of the result of a duel between the hero and the villain: “The hero fell at the first shot. The surgeon bent over him. ‘Safe,’ he whispered. ‘The bullet has grazed his temple, but had it gone an eighth of an inch deeper it would have severed the femoral artery.’” —Medical Era.

Longevity Among Centenarians, judging from newspaper items, is on the increase. Females now, despite their hardships, lead the company. Two widows, one in Croton, Vt., and the other in Lawrence, Mass., celebrated their one hundredth anniversary on July 31, while another in Lockport, N. Y., entered upon her hundredth year on August 4. Life Insurance authorities claim that only one in a million can attain so ripe an age. Beyond the fact of a long uneventful existence added to age. The Central Trend of Population.—At the recent Hygienic Congress Dr. Stephen Sedlaczek produced statistics of the increase in population of the greatest cities of the world since 1800. He showed some very interesting facts. The population of Amsterdam, Birmingham, Brussels, Manchester and Rome doubled in that period; Copenhagen and Marseilles have now a population three times as large as at the beginning of this century; London, Lyons, Paris, St. Petersburg and Prague have quadrupled in the number of inhabitants within the last ninety years; Breslau, Dresden, Hamburg, Cologne and Vienna have five times as many people; Leeds, Liverpool and Warsaw, six times as many; Glasgow and Sheffield, seven times as many; Munich, eight times as many; Berlin, Budapest and Leipsic, nine times as many; Baltimore, ten times as many; New York and Philadelphia, twenty-five times as many; Chicago, 245 times, and Brooklyn 339 times as many as ninety years ago. Dublin, while slightly larger now than ninety years ago, has lost 17,000 inhabitants within the last forty years, and is the only large city in Europe which shows a retrograde movement in its population.

Psychic Phenomena.—One of the most remarkable manifestations of psychic force at the present day is the wave of suggestion that seems to sweep over the country periodically, affecting certain luminaries of the medical press on the subject of translations from foreign exchanges. In the first place, it is remarkable that out of the dozens of exchanges brought to these shores, the editors of some of our esteemed contemporaries should each happen to select the same articles for translation and condensation. But the mystery deepens as we note that some psychic force impels them to translate into brief abstracts, word for word, letter for letter, page after page, exactly as the articles were translated for the JOURNAL the week or month before. Like the famous echo at the Lake of Killarney, this psychic force seems to act with equal effectiveness in all languages, in abstracts from the Portuguese, Italian, Norwegian, etc., as well as the more familiar continental tongues. The JOURNAL suggests that such peculiar susceptibility to psychic emanations might lead to some important scientific discoveries if the foreign editors in question would submit to special hypnotic experimentation and give credit for the translation where it belongs.

Louisville: Vacations.—A number of physicians of the city have left for their summer vacations. Dr. J. M. Mathews is sojourning at Makinac Island, Mich.; Drs. Clint Kelly and A. M. Cartledge are in Canada fishing; Dr. Louis Frank is at Petoskey; Dr. L. S. McMurtry will spend a week in Canada before going to the meeting of the American Association of Obstetricians at Niagara Falls; Dr. J. B. Marvin is at the Wentworth, Portsmouth, N. H.; Dr. J. A. Ouchterlony is at Atlantic City; Dr. Carl Weidner went to Germany to see his father, who had been in delicate health for some time, and since his departure last week word has been received by his family that the father died two days before he sailed, the letter apprising them of the fact being delayed in its transmission; Dr. J. W. Guest is at Rock Castle Springs, Ky., where he is the resident physician.