

CURRENT TOPICS

TRANSLATIONS of Dr. Frederick Friedmann's statements regarding his new system of treating tuberculosis, furnished to congress through Consul General Thackera, at Berlin, have been completed by the state department, and the complete data procured at the request of congress soon will be printed. The Washington correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer says: Dr. Friedmann's address did not give the secret of his new remedy, which is understood to be a serum derived from cold-blooded animals. According to the official reports, he will not make this known until he is prepared to furnish it to physicians. Dangers of the bacillus becoming virulent after being injected into the human body were removed, Dr. Friedmann said, by long cultivation of the germs. "Finally I repeatedly injected it into myself," he continued, "then into adult tuberculosis patients, then into consumptive children, and finally, when the successful therapeutic results continued to be confirmed (which was a long time afterward), into children by way of prophylactic inoculation."

DR. FRIEDMANN did not enter into a description of his preparation in the report which is to be published by congress. He says: "The preparation proved absolutely harmless, even in large doses and however applied. The treatment consists in intramuscular incorporation, occurring once, twice or three times, seldom oftener, and repeated at long intervals. An infiltrate must form at the place of injection; this infiltrate should be from the size of a walnut to that of a small apple, and will gradually disappear in the course of the next few weeks or months. As long as this tissue exists, and during its gradual absorption, the healing will go on. Only if and as long as the injected substance is completely absorbed and remains in the body do the healing effects show most striking; as a rule, this occurs very soon and the healing then progresses steadily. We often see, even under the influence of a single injection, bone and joint fistulas of long years' standing become clean and close, while scrofuloderms are covered over with young and healthy skin; big, hard glandular tumors diminish considerably in size; tubercular abscesses flatten down and cicatrize; chronic scrofulous eczema heals permanently; and last, but not least, pulmonary consumptives lose all their troubles and physical symptoms of disease." Dr. Friedmann admitted in his speech that with some patients the "resorption of the substance is not complete," and that it became useless to give a new injection. In many of these cases, he said, he had had failures.

AN interesting after development in a surgical case which attracted much attention about four years ago is described by a writer in the Journal of the American Medical Association in this way: A prisoner serving a long sentence in the prison at Dannemora, N. Y., was pardoned by Governor White on representations which seemed to make it clear that he had been cured of his criminal tendencies by a surgical operation. Following the operation the prisoner's character seemed to change. From being sullen and morose he became bright and cheerful, walked with firmer step, held his head erect and appeared to be a different man. It was not surprising that a few months after the operation the governor was induced to set him free on parole, and there seemed to be every reason to hope that a useful citizen had been restored to society in place of the criminal that had been taken from it. Unfortunately the arrest of the paroled prisoner the first week of January of the present year, for a series of burglaries with regard to which the evidence is complete, seems to make it clear that the improvement was only temporary, or that the operation and his subsequent good conduct were steps in a scheme to obtain his release from prison. There is no trustworthy evidence to show that changes in moral character, independent of mental deterioration, result from pressure on the brain. Sensational announcements of improvement in such cases after surgical intervention, like those that used to be made after various surgical

procedures in epilepsy, need to be controlled by the subsequent history of the case. Immediate improvement in such cases is usually mental rather than physical, and successes reported before many years have tested their permanence are liable to produce false impressions.

WEST VIRGINIA, in the midst of a heated senatorial contest, developed a great scandal. An Associated Press dispatch says: Four members of the house of delegates and one member of the senate of West Virginia were arrested at a hotel here by Sheriff Bonner Hill, on charges of having accepted money for their votes in the contest for United States senator. The accused men are Representatives U. S. G. Rhodes, Mingo county; Dr. R. F. Asbury, Putnam county; David E. Hill, Mason county, Ralph Duff, Jackson county and Senator B. A. Smith. Public Prosecutor Thomas C. Townsend was present when the arrests were made and the men were taken at once before a justice of the peace, where each waived a hearing and was held in \$5,000 bond. It is alleged that marked money was found in the pockets of the legislators when they were arrested. According to Prosecutor Townsend, Rhodes is alleged to have made the assertion recently that for something over \$50,000 he could change six votes in the two houses. After hearing of this reported statement, Prosecutor Townsend is said to have secured the services of several private detectives who were in close touch with the senatorial situation. Although details of the work of the detectives was not made public, it is alleged a plan was devised whereby a change in the senatorial vote was to have been made. It is said that the plan was to change a vote or two the first day and gradually follow with other changes until the necessary number of votes had been secured. It is said that a trap was laid by the prosecutor and that arrangements were made to have the money for the votes paid over. It is alleged that the men were summoned to the hotel and that while Prosecutor Townsend and Sheriff Hill watched from an adjoining room \$20,000 in marked bills was handed to them. The arrests were made immediately afterward, according to the officers. The city is filled with rumors concerning this sensational step of the prosecutor. It is reported that the men arrested were to have voted for one of the leading candidates for United States senator and some of the votes were to have been delivered when the house and senate in joint session took its sixth ballot for senator which resulted as follows: Republicans—William Seymour Edwards, 16; Isaac T. Mann, 15; Davis Elkins, 17; A. B. White, 4; N. B. Scott, 1; W. P. Hubbard, 9; Nathan Goff, 2; Governor Glasscock, 1. Democrats—Watson, 45; John M. Hamilton, 1; Judge Dailey, 1; John W. Davis, 1. Rhodes, the delegate who placed Isaac Mann in nomination, is said to have been the leader, and it was stated after the arrest that of the \$20,000 paid in marked money to the legislators he received \$15,000. Duff is alleged to have received \$2,000 and each of the others \$1,000.

DEVELOPMENTS in the West Virginia scandals continue to be interesting. An Associated Press dispatch from Charleston, W. Va., says: Colonel William Seymour Edwards, candidate for United States senator was arrested on a warrant issued by Justice Marion Gilchrist, charged with bribing Delegate John M. Smith of Tyler county. The warrant was issued at the instance of Delegate S. U. G. Rhodes, one of the five men arrested recently. Edwards furnished bond. Intense excitement was created in the house of delegates when Rev. Thomas J. Smith of West Union, Dodridge county, speaking on a question of personal privilege, declared that Delegate S. U. G. Rhodes and another man thrust \$500 in his pocket in a room in a Charleston hotel, after, he declared, Rhodes and the other man had offered him \$2,000 if he would vote for Colonel W. S. Edwards for United States senator. Smith declared he did not know how much money had been put into his pockets until he had left the room. Then he went to

Delegate H. C. Williamson of Taylor county, had him count the money, inclose it in an envelope and return it to Rhodes. Smith, explaining his position, said he had refused to accept any money from Rhodes or the other man, whom he did not recognize, but Rhodes had insisted it was not a bribe. Smith has been voting for Isaac T. Mann for senator. In compliance with the joint resolution, President Wood in the senate appointed Senators O. S. Marshall and O. A. Hoods of the committee to investigate the alleged bribery in the legislature, and Speaker George, in the house, named Delegates Sherman T. Robinson, Charles A. Sutton and W. S. Young.

REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN Y. WEBB, of North Carolina, author of the Webb bill, made this statement of its purpose: "The bill is intended to withdraw the protecting hand of interstate commerce from intoxicating liquors transported into a state for use therein in violation of the laws of such state. Before the Wilson act of 1890, any person had the right, not only to have intoxicating liquors transported to him from without the state, but also to sell such liquors in the original package. The supreme court in *Leisy vs. Hardin* upheld this right of the consignee. The court later held in the case of *Rhodes vs. Iowa* that the Wilson act deprived the consignee of this right he had formerly had. At present no state can interfere with an interstate shipment of liquor until it has actually been delivered to the consignee, but under the Webb bill a state official is permitted to seize a shipment consigned to a blind tiger, and try the case as to whether it was intended to violate the laws of the state."

THE experiences of the postal savings banks are described in Postmaster General Hitchcock's annual report. Mr. Hitchcock calls attention to the fact that there are now 12,812 depositories with about 300,000 depositors and about 28 million dollars in deposits. He adds: "On the basis of the present monthly net increase of deposits it is estimated that the gross income of the postal savings system for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913, will amount to \$700,000, and the interest payable to depositors to \$300,000. The cost of supplies and equipment and the salaries of clerks at the central office during this period will aggregate about \$425,000, and to this amount should be added approximately \$275,000, representing compensation for the time of post office clerks employed on postal savings work. "Thus it will be seen that the estimated income of the system for the fiscal year will meet the amount of interest payable as well as the total expenses of the central office, but will not be large enough to cover also the cost of the clerical work in post offices. It is expected that when the deposits have increased to \$50,000,000, which, at the present rate, they will soon do, the system will be self-sustaining." Among the recommendations for legislation are these: That the postage on second class matter be increased from one to two cents a pound. That the third and fourth classes of mail be consolidated, so that the parcel post shall cover all merchandise. That the use of the franking privilege be limited to the mailing of official correspondence and such speeches and documents as are printed by order of congress. That the restrictions on the amount that may be accepted under the postal savings system from one depositor be removed, with the proviso that interest shall not be paid on more than \$1,000. That fraud investigations be transferred to the department of justice. Mr. Hitchcock renews his recommendation that the telegraph lines be made part of the postal system.

THEY are already having trouble at the national capital over woman suffrage. The Washington correspondent for the New York Herald says: Representative Thomas Heflin, of Alabama, has stirred up a hornet's nest by his unfavorable comments on woman's suffrage. Mrs. Champ Clark, wife of the speaker of the house, and Mrs. Anne Hamilton Pitzer, sister of Mrs. Clark, made statements taking issue with