

inhabitants, the proportion of males being 104.9 to 100 females. The number of stillbirths is given—162,676, a rate of 3.3 per 1,000 inhabitants, and 9.8 stillbirths per 100 births.

Deaths.

The number of deaths was 1,029,447, or 20.9 per 1,000 inhabitants. Infantile mortality in Japan, like elsewhere, is high—153 per 1,000 normal births. The principal causes of death during the year were: Pulmonary phthisis 74.4 per 1,000 deaths, meningitis 68.5 per 1,000 deaths, pneumonia 64.4 per 1,000 deaths.

Infectious Diseases.

In the autumn of 1909 cholera was imported into three prefectures; there was a total of 328 cases with 221 deaths. Dysentery seems to have been very prevalent; no fewer than 28,006 cases occurred, with a death-rate of 24.41 per cent. Typhoid is another disease of frequent occurrence; 25,106 cases were reported, with 5,470 deaths. Of diphtheria there were 18,102 cases, with 5,121 deaths.

Vaccination.

Vaccination is compulsory in Japan, and is rigidly enforced. During 1909 the total number of persons who were regularly vaccinated was 3,006,267, which is 6.14 per cent. of the entire population; about half the number were vaccinated for the first time, and the other half for the second and third times; 88.74 per cent. of the total number of the vaccinations were successful in the first vaccinations, and 31.64 per cent. in the second and third vaccinations.

Poisoning.

The total number of persons poisoned in 1909 was 1,963, with 420 deaths; this is an increase over the previous year. The chief causes were ptomaine and fungi. Generally speaking, cases of ptomaine poisoning are numerous in regions far away from the sea, and most of them are attributed to the eating of putrefied fish.

Enthetic Diseases.

A Contagious Diseases Act is in force in Japan; 2,784,258 examinations were made, and 2.61 per cent. of those examined were found to be affected.

Medical Practitioners.

The number of medical practitioners licensed during 1909 was 1,028, which was 74 less than 1908. In all there were 36,673 physicians (including 60 foreigners) in practice. The average number of inhabitants to one medical practitioner was 1,347.

It is interesting to note that under the "Law of Physicians" the following rules are enforced:

The physician shall keep the patient's book, and such patient's book shall be preserved for ten years.

No physician is permitted to make any advertisement, whatever may be its means, as to his art, method of treatment, or personal record, except as to his degrees and titles and the name of his speciality.

With reference to the giving of prescriptions to patients, there is the following rule:

In case the physician gives a prescription to a patient whom he has medically examined, he shall state therein the name and age of the patient, the name, amount, use, and dose of the medicine, and the date of issuing such prescription, and sign his name or affix his seal.

The penalty for infringement of any of these rules is a fine not exceeding twenty-five yen.

Bacteriological Institute.

A large amount of work was done at this institute during the year, and thirty-seven different reports were published, including "A Study of the Rat-Flea Native to Japan," "A Study on Beri-Beri," and a "Report on Plague." Vaccine lymph is prepared and distributed at the institute, and the various kinds of serums are prepared and sold. The bottles of diphtheria serum sold amounted to 106,427; tuberculin, 1,006; typhoid fever serum, 2,872; plague serum, 2,427.

Sixty-five students completed a course of study at the institute and obtained certificates.

Statistics.

Appended to the report is an elaborate series of statistical tables covering 140 pages. These tables, 85 in all, deal with every conceivable subject connected with public health, and must have entailed an enormous expenditure of time and trouble in their preparation. The report is,

from a statistical point of view, well worthy of perusal, and affords an indication as to how public health matters are dealt with in this go-ahead country.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PROPRIETARY MEDICINES.

THE Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the law and advertisement of proprietary articles met for the first time to receive evidence at the House of Commons on May 9th. Sir Henry Norman, the Chairman, presided, and evidence was received as to the existing law with regard to the question and the relations to it of the various Government departments.

THE BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE.

Sir Nathaniel Highmore, Solicitor to H.M. Customs and Excise, the first witness, gave information regarding the historical development of the law relating to the sale of patent medicines and proprietary articles, and the amounts of the yields to the revenue from these sources. He said that the duties in respect of medicines were first imposed in 1783 by the Act of 23 George III, chap. 62. In introducing the Budget of that year, Lord John Cavendish stated that quack medicines, in his opinion, were very proper objects of taxation. He proposed that in certain cases there should be a licence, and that a duty of 8 per cent. should be charged. This he believed would produce a revenue of £15,000—an important sum at that time. The duties were imposed upon persons not possessing certain qualifications—for example, those who had not served a regular apprenticeship to a surgeon or apothecary. They were required to take out an annual licence, and for the articles they sold under the licence there were three rates of duty—namely, 3d. when the price of the article did not exceed 2s. 6d.; 6d. on articles from 2s. 6d. to 5s.; and 1s. from 5s. upwards. A further Act bearing on the subject of proprietary articles was that of 25 George III, chap. 79. These Acts were repealed by a measure passed in 1802, which was the foundation of the present law in reference to medicines. The three main Acts affecting the question were passed in 1802, 1804, and 1812. These imposed two duties, one upon the licence and one upon the medicines sold, and this principle had been maintained throughout by the Legislature. Taking the licence duty first, there were three rates imposed, and these remained in force until 1875. They were—in London and Edinburgh, £2; in Manchester, Birmingham, and Sheffield, 10s.; and in other parts of Great Britain, 5s. All these duties up to that time were stamp duties. In 1864 the duty on the licence was made a duty of excise, and in 1875 the three different grades of duties for different parts of the country were repealed, and a uniform duty of 5s. was imposed upon the licence; this duty remained to the present day. There was no exemption from the obligation to obtain a licence for the sale of proprietary articles except one granted in the case of mineral waters. The licence commenced on September 1st in each year, and the penalty for selling without a licence was £20, imposed by the Act of 1802.

The duty on the medicine itself was charged by an Act of 44 George III, chap. 98. An Act of 1812 contained a very long list—nearly twelve columns—of articles specifically charged, but he did not think that many of them were known at the present day. One or two were patented articles, and some had peculiar names. Not only medicines were included, but articles such as "medicated snuff," "toothache pills," "drops for fits," and so on. Occasionally appliances were mentioned. At the end of the list of names appeared a long statement of what was to be included in the charge of duty, and this read:

And also all other Pills, Powders, Lozenges, Tinctures, Potions, Cordials, Electuaries, Plaisters, Unguents, Salves, Ointments, Drops, Lotions, Oils, Spirits, Medicated Herbs and Waters, chemical and officinal Preparations whatsoever, to be used or applied externally or internally as Medicines or Medicaments, for the Prevention, Cure, or Relief of any Disorder or Complaint incident to or in anywise affecting the Human Body, made, prepared, uttered, vended, or exposed to sale, by any Person or Persons whatsoever.

Or which have at any time heretofore been, now are, or shall hereafter be, by any public Notice or Advertisement, or by any written or printed Papers or Hand-bills, or by any Label or Words written or printed, affixed to or delivered with any Packet, Box, Bottle, Phial, or other Inclosure containing the

same, held out or recommended to the Public by the Makers, Vendors, or Proprietors thereof as Nostrums, or Proprietary Medicines, or as Specifics, or as beneficial to the Prevention, Cure, or Relief of any Distemper, Malady, Ailment, Disorder, or Complaint, incident to or in anywise affecting the Human Body.

The duty on these medicines was charged by the Act of 1804, and varied according to the price of the article, as follows:

Value 1s., 1½d.; exceeding 1s. and not exceeding 2s. 6d., 3d.; exceeding 2s. 6d. and not exceeding 4s., 6d.; exceeding 4s. and not exceeding 10s., 1s.; exceeding 10s. and not exceeding 20s., 2s.; exceeding 20s. and not exceeding 30s., 3s.; exceeding 30s. and not exceeding 50s., 10s.; exceeding 50s., £1. There were eight items in the scale, as compared with three in the original scale. In practice there were six items, the highest of which was 3s., there being no demand for the two items of 10s. and £1.

With regard to exemptions, all medicinal drugs whatsoever, without mixture or composition with any other drug or other ingredient supplied by any surgeon or apothecary, chemist, or druggist who had served a regular apprenticeship, or by any other person licensed to sell any of the medicines chargeable within the statute, were exempt. This was known technically as the exemption of pure drugs. The other exemption applied to what were called "well-known remedies." There was an exemption in favour of these, provided they were sold by a chemist without a recommendation as a remedy by the maker thereof. A further exemption existed in favour of ginger or peppermint lozenges unless they were sold with a recommendation as a remedy. The penalty for infringement was £10.

The witness went on to describe the procedure of the department of Customs and Excise with regard to levying duties, explaining that foreign medicines were dealt with in much the same way as home-manufactured ones. Eau de Cologne was treated under the ordinary customs duty in respect of perfumed spirits, unless it was held out as a medicine beneficial for the cure of an ailment. A preparation for the hair, merely recommended as a hair wash and not for the prevention or cure of any ailment affecting the scalp, would be exempt, but a tooth salve which was claimed to be a cure of toothache would be liable to duty. As to medicated wines and spirits, these were sold by chemists without a wine or spirit licence if they were sufficiently medicated as to ensure that they would not be taken as beverages, but if they were sold with a recommendation as a medicine the stamp duty would attach. Replying to the Chairman, the witness explained that the question whether the wines were sufficiently medicated or not was decided by the Government chemist.

Sir Nathaniel put in a number of specimens of the different forms of stamps used by the Government in respect of proprietary articles, and mentioned that a special form could be obtained by any manufacturer. Considerable use was made of this privilege, as was shown by the fact that the unappropriated 1½d. stamps printed numbered 10 millions; appropriated, 19 millions; unappropriated 3d. stamps, 3 millions; appropriated, 5 millions. As to the yield of the duties, he gave the following figures:

Year ending March 31st, 1912.		
Licences issued	...	43,117
Amount received in respect of above...	£10,781	5s.
Duties on medicines apart from licences	£327,856	

The whole of that duty, except a little less than £4,000, was paid in England. The sum of £820 10s. for licences and £2,999 in respect of medicines was paid in Scotland. The witness also put in the following table, based upon a return for 1908 made to the House of Commons:

Number of Stamps sold of Different Denominations.			
1½d. stamps...	...	...	33,037,202
3d. stamps ...	...	...	7,565,822
6d. stamps ...	...	...	1,002,549
1s. stamps ...	...	...	122,249
2s. stamps ...	...	...	18,445
3s. stamps ...	...	...	11,308
Total	...	...	41,757,575

The gross receipts amounted to £335,878 9s. 2½d. The figures given above represented a fair average for some years past. The manufacture of these articles was very much greater in England than in Scotland; there were no

figures with regard to Ireland, as the duty did not apply to that country.

Asked by the Chairman as to his view of the law generally, Sir Nathaniel Highmore said he regarded the present law as very much out of date. The exemptions were very wide, and some were entirely obsolete. He regarded it as possible to place on the Statute Book a fairly simple Act of Parliament which would do away with any question of concession and make it clear what was intended to be covered and what exempted. It was a difficult matter to administer Acts of Parliament passed over a century ago.

The Chairman: Do any particular difficulties arise in the administration of the law?

The Witness: Nothing that calls for special mention. We have to consider the terms of the labels and advertisements, and occasionally have to deal with cases where there are attempts to fix labels which are calculated to deceive the public as to whether they are stamps or not. Occasionally imitation labels are sought to be used.

In reply to other questions, the witness said it was the duty of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise to set the law in motion if it was being evaded. The Board had a large staff of Customs and Excise officers.

Sir Philip Magnus asked whether any trader, in obtaining a licence, had to make a declaration as to the composition of the medicines, and the reply was in the negative.

The witness put in an advertisement which, he said, consisted of a statement that a certain article was made according to the formula of Beecham's pills, as published in *Secret Remedies*, issued by the British Medical Association. These people endeavoured to get the advantage of the advertising of Beecham's pills. The question arose as to whether they should be proceeded against by the Board of Customs and Excise. It was felt, however, that it was impossible to say the pills were advertised as a proprietary or secret remedy because they were merely stated to be according to a published formula.

The Chairman: The alleged formula. The analyst is fallible in law.

The witness added that before very long the vendors added a recommendation of their own, and this brought them in conflict with the Board of Customs and Excise. As a matter of fact, they were prosecuted the previous day and fined for selling medicines which they recommended as a remedy, without having a licence.

The Chairman: Is this one of the cases that would lead you to think the law is inadequate?

The Witness: It is.

In reply to Sir Henry Dalziel, the witness said that the question whether the law was strong enough to deal with obvious fraud, and to protect the public as regards the sale of pernicious remedies, did not affect his department, which was concerned merely with the collection of duties.

Mr. Glyn Jones: What is the practice of the Board in regard to the proprietary medicines advertised in technical papers, such as the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL and the *Lancet*? Do the Board regard that class of proprietary medicines as coming within the scope of the Act?

The Witness: I think a preparation recommended in a paragraph in either of those papers will be used probably for dispensing purposes. The Board does not require stamps to be put on them provided they are really used for dispensing.

Mr. Glyn Jones: I am referring to a class of articles held out to be for the prevention or cure of ailments. This is done by travellers who call on medical men, or by means of circulars, or by advertisements in papers circulating amongst medical men. All the grounds of duty are there, but the Board does not enforce the stamp duties.

The Witness: The Board's practice is, if the medicine is received in bulk by a chemist without any label attaching to it, and received solely for the purpose of making up doctors' prescriptions of which it forms an ingredient, and an undertaking is given that it will not be sold except as part of a medicine, not to require payment of duty.

The Chairman: Are these sold in bulk or in small quantities?

The Witness: I think they are generally sold in larger quantities than they would be supplied to the public.

Mr. Haydn Jones asked if it was possible for a person to register any preparation and patent it without making a declaration of contents.

The witness replied that the term "patent medicine" was really a misnomer, although it was so commonly used. There were very few medicines that were patented.

Mr. Haydn Jones: It is open to any one to foist on the public a preparation that is absolutely worthless.

The Witness: We cannot possibly undertake in our department to say what is the value of a preparation.

In reply to Mr. Cawley, the witness said it would be difficult to arrive at the actual amount paid by the people of this country for proprietary articles merely from the amount of the duty, owing to the fact that the gradations of the scale made it impossible to arrive at an exact computation.

Dr. Chapple: Could you give a rate over a series of years to show whether the consumption is increasing or not?

The Witness: It would be difficult, because some years ago certain remedies could not be purchased for less than 2s. 6d., and now they are made up in smaller quantities.

Dr. Lynch: Do you discriminate between drugs having a real medicinal value and those that are pretty well worthless?—No.

Can you say what proportion of patent medicines sold here is manufactured in America?—No, I do not think it would be possible to trace them.

The Chairman: Could you not supply such a list? I am sure the Committee would regard it as important.

The Witness: I will ascertain whether it can be obtained.

In reply to other questions by Dr. Lynch, Sir Nathaniel said that in deciding whether a medicine was "well known" or not, the evidence of certain periodicals was accepted. If the name appeared in the *British Pharmacopoeia*, the Board would regard that as conclusive.

Dr. Lynch: Can a proprietor sufficiently advertise his medicine—boom it, so to speak—and so make it a well-known medicine, thus evading the duty?—There would have to be no proprietary rights attached to it. The fact that he described himself as the proprietor would make the article liable to duty.

As to the Government guarantee, does not the phrase "No Government guarantee" on the stamp tend to convey to the public mind that a Government guarantee of some proprietary articles does exist?—The phrase was used because some proprietors advertised "None genuine unless guaranteed by the Government stamp."

Could it not be made more explicit?—I do not think it could, except by getting rid, perhaps, of the use of the word "patent" in the popular description of chargeable medicines. That word may be taken to imply that the articles were under the protection of letters patent, but the use of the ordinary stamp could not be a guarantee of any sort.

The Chairman: To which Government department should a person apply for information with regard to the sale and advertisement of patent medicines, apart from matters connected with payment of duty?

The Witness: To the Home Office, perhaps, or the Local Government Board. I think both those departments may be concerned.

Does not the fact that you are unable to reply to that question definitely point to an extraordinary position of the law?—One is not always prepared with a definite reply to questions put without any notice that the point to which they relate is likely to arise.

Is there anything in law to prevent any person making any mixture containing anything except obvious poisons, advertising it as a cure for any disease, and selling it broadcast to the public on payment of stamp duty?—No, if you exclude poisons.

I am excluding poisons. I am anxious to have your definite answer on that?—There is nothing, to my knowledge.

Mr. Harry Lawson: Is it not the case that the police can take action where there is manifest fraud?—Possibly they might proceed on the ground that it was a false trade description.

The Chairman: Are the police entitled to take action on the ground that offering a certain mixture for the cure of a certain disease is a fraud?—I hardly think so. It would depend upon the nature of the evidence available.

Mr. Lawson: Is it not the case that the police have not wished to take action from motives of public policy—that they have felt that to institute a prosecution would

advertise the article?—I should not think so. I think in a case of positive fraud the police might possibly take proceedings.

Mr. J. C. Ledlie, deputy clerk to the Privy Council and chief clerk to the Privy Council Office, gave evidence as to the relations of the Privy Council Office with the law as to proprietary articles. This, he said, was only indirect and incidental; the Privy Council Office was in close touch with the different branches of the healing art—the doctors, dentists, chemists, veterinary surgeons, and midwives—and it exercised in regard to the bodies representing these classes a certain amount of supervisory influence. That influence could be exercised by nominees on the governing bodies; the General Medical Council, for instance, had five nominees of the King and Council. Influence might also be exercised through the right of approving the acts of the various bodies. As an instance of indirect relations the witness put in a report as to practice of medicine and surgery by unqualified persons in the United Kingdom. The jurisdiction of the Privy Council was statutory; it probably arose from the fact that the branches of the medical profession were moved by certain associations which had applied at one time or another for Royal Charters. For this purpose they must come to the Privy Council, and in the charters were reservations requiring that the by-laws must be approved by the Council.

The Chairman: It is not clear to me how the Poisons Act comes under the Privy Council.

The Witness: It is probably due to the fact that the Pharmaceutical Society in 1843 obtained a charter from the Privy Council.

What machinery have you for dealing with the sale of poisons?—The Acts are administered by the Pharmaceutical Society, which has its inspectors to detect the illegal sale of poisons.

Then a non-official body takes action?—That is so.

Supposing the Committee desires official information on any point as to the sale or advertisement of proprietary articles, to what Government department should the inquiry be addressed?—It would depend upon the nature of the information sought.

My point is that the control of all this is so split up; each department seems desirous of placing the responsibility upon another. I want to know how the public stand; there are the Privy Council, the Home Office, the Customs and Excise, all exercising some powers—I don't know whether the Local Government Board acts in this matter. What are the functions of the Home Office?—So far as I am aware, it acts in criminal proceedings. In my experience there has never been any difficulty as between the Home Office and ourselves as to which should take action.

But there is a confusion of departmental control in this matter?—I think the working of the law is very defective. It is open to any one to make or sell or advertise any preparation so long as it is not a poison, and it may be perfectly useless.

Are there any statutory regulations affecting the sale of proprietary articles as such?—Not that I know of, except the stamp duty.

Dr. Lynch: Is it the business of any Government department or any official whatever to concern themselves with the growth of the use of pernicious drugs, and to do something to protect the public?—No.

Is there known to you any check of any kind which would prevent a man having no qualifications whatever putting some worthless drugs together, bolstering them up by advertisement, selling them at prices absurdly out of proportion to their real value, and not coming within the purview of the law, except as regards the stamp duty?—No, unless it be by an individual action brought by some one who complained that the preparation had not had the results claimed for it.

Have you heard of such a case?—No.

There is practically no check whatever?—That is so.

In reply to Mr. Harry Lawson, the witness expressed the opinion that the Privy Council should be empowered to exercise any new duties with reference to regulating the sale of deleterious products. He did not think it would meet the case if the provisions of the Poisons Act were applied so that the term "poison" was used in regard to all deleterious so-called remedies. Separate legislation

would be required. A body under the Privy Council would be needed to carry out the duties of inspection, and so on.

Mr. Glyn Jones: Am I right in saying that any proprietary article which contains any of the drugs mentioned in the schedule to the Pharmacy Act comes within the regulations of that Act?—Yes.

And if it is suggested that any article not in the schedule is deleterious or poisonous, and that the regulations should apply to it, the Pharmaceutical Society can pass a resolution which is submitted to the Privy Council, and that body says "Aye" or "No," whether the article shall be added to the list?—That is the practice.

Then the present law provides machinery for adding to the list anything which should be regarded as a poison, and when thus added proprietary medicines come within its scope?—Yes, under the Act of 1862.

Dr. Lynch: But you would not go so far as to say something could be added which was not a poison, but which might be deleterious?—No, I would not go as far as that.

The Committee then adjourned until Thursday, May 16th.

Noval et Vetera.

THE TEN PLAGUES OF JERUM THE PHYSICIAN.

A TALE OF PHOENICIA.*

JERUM THE PHYSICIAN once lived in the city of Tyre in Phoenicia, and was famed for his learning and skill, so that the sick came to him from Egypt, and from Syria, and from other lands, and gave for his advice and help presents of gold and silver and precious stones. Yet was he not proud or puffed up like his neighbour Joram of Sidon, who disdained to go to the poor and needy because they could not pay. After Jerum had spent the whole morning among the sick of the city, one might see him in the evening riding on his grey mule about the villages, where he went from house to house, bringing everywhere comfort and help. Both rich and poor in Tyre knew how to prize such service, and they honoured Jerum above all other physicians.

One day at noon, as he returned to his house to eat hastily the simple meal which his wife Astaroth had prepared, he found before his door a man from Judaea. He was shaking the dust from his feet, and he crossed his arms on his breast and asked, "Are you he whom I seek, the physician Jerum?" "I am he," said Jerum; "tell me quickly your desire, for lo! I am in haste." Then the man raised his hands and said, "Praised be Jehovah, who has guarded me on my journey and brought me safe to your house. I am Amos, servant of the High Priest Ezekiel in Jerusalem, and I am sent by my master to beg you to visit him in Jerusalem that you may free him from his heavy affliction."

"That," said Jerum, "is easy to say, but hard to do. Why did not your master himself come to me, that I might see him face to face, and know his sickness?" "Through long illness he is weak as an infant. May Jehovah soften your heart to go with me to my master!" "How can you ask such a thing," said Jerum. "Can I leave the many sick here and in the villages around?"

"It is Jehovah's will that you follow me," cried Amos, and raised his hands once more beseechingly. "Think well what you say. If you fulfil my lord's request Jehovah will bless you in all your ways. If you tarry you will have only trouble and sorrow, and no work of your hands will prosper." "What is this that I hear?" said Jerum, and he strode into the house, leaving the man from Judaea standing at the door.

When Jerum had eaten and was satisfied he mounted his mule and rode out to the next village where one of the king's woodcutters had that morning fallen from a tree, and had broken his right arm. Jerum pulled the bone till

it was straight, laid it on a splint of wood, and bandaged it as he had learned, and then in good spirits rode to his home. But that night as he lay in bed a man knocked at his door. "Come speedily to the woodcutter whom you bandaged to-day, for his pain grows always worse." And Jerum arose and took his mule from the stable and rode out to the man. The hand was swollen like a pillow, and all feeling had gone from the fingers, and Jerum took off the splint and bandages straightway, and rode out every day to rub the arm with powerful salves, yet the fingers remained numb, and the bone healed up awry and the man was a cripple. Then the man's wife took her husband into the city and pleaded before the judge, and the judge ordered Jerum to pay the woodcutter an hundred pieces of silver. From that day the heart of Jerum was sad, and the best dishes which his wife Astaroth could prepare were tasteless. Then said his wife, "Husband, you are sick and need rest. Take my counsel and go up into the mountain of Lebanon where you have friends among the herdsmen. Abide with them till you are well." "And who will care for the sick who need me while I am away?" asked Jerum with a troubled face. "Have no care for that," said his wife. "Is there not Hanno, my sister's son, who has just come from studying under the most famous physicians of Greece? Let him come and take your place so long as you are away." And it was so, and Hanno came from Sidon where he lived with his mother, and Jerum bade farewell to his wife and his young son Hamilcar and his nephew, and, staff in hand, he climbed up into the mountain.

And it came to pass some time after he had left the town that a great feast was held in Tyre in honour of the god Baal, and one of the bullocks for the sacrifice brake loose and struck the high priest with his horn in the body so that the man was borne off for dead. And the whole people cried out for the physician Jerum, and when he was not found at his house they brought his nephew Hanno to the place, and Hanno washed the wound with a sponge and bandaged it with all care as he had learned to do in Greece. But the priest died in great agony in the following night, and a man of Tyre who had helped at the dressing of the wound told how he had seen with his own eyes that Hanno had sewed up a sponge in the belly of the high priest. And there was a great outcry against the young physician so that he fled by night to his home at Sidon, for the people would have cast him out.

And when Jerum was well and returned to his house from the mountain he saw from afar his wife Astaroth approach, and come to meet him, with his son Hamilcar. And Jerum was glad and showed his joy, and after he had greeted them he said, "Why is not Hanno come also with you to meet me?" But Astaroth hid her face and began to weep and told him with tears all that had happened. Then Jerum tore his hair and his beard, and cried, "Woe is me that I went into the mountain and left the care of my people to a fool. Now is this plague worse than the first, and the children on the street will mock at me." And he was more sorrowful than before and feared to leave his house, thinking himself despised of the people of Tyre.

But Hiram the King remained well disposed towards him and bade him come to the castle to heal his wife Baaltis. Now the king had lately received from the Queen of Cyprus a beautiful young slave as a gift, and he was well pleased with her, and proposed to keep her in the women's apartments beside his wife. And his wife was wroth, and she fell into convulsions so that her maidens could not hold her. And Jerum came and gave her the most precious of medicines, but the convulsions would not leave her. Then went one of the maids to Joram, the physician of Sidon, and received from him a box with small white pills and a vial of clear liquid, and of these she gave the queen each day three pills moistened with one drop of the liquid. And on the third day when the queen had taken the second pill she had news that sudden death had befallen the beautiful slave from Cyprus; and she rose from her bed and was well as heretofore. And the queen began to praise the physician of Sidon who had given again her life and health, and she spake evil of Jerum so that he lost the favour of the king and might no more appear within the palace.

This pleased the other physicians of Tyre more than if the king had given them presents from his treasury, and

* Dr. Ludwig Hopf (Philander), of Stuttgart, has issued two series of medical fables. The story of Jerum is taken from the first series, *Medizinische Maerchen*, von Philander, published by Messrs. Levy and Müller, Stuttgart (price M. 2.40 in paper, 3.50 bound and gilded). The second series, *Neue medizinische und anthropologische Maerchen*, von Ludwig Hopf, is published by Franz Pietzcker, Tübingen. The translator has to thank Messrs. Levy and Müller and the author for their permission to issue this translation.