The Chicago Times

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SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1888.—TWENTY PAGES.

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THE REMEDY.

Dr. Rauch Advises Strict Enforcement of Existing Laws Against the Abortionists.

An Examining Board with Authority to Ignore Diplomas Would Be a Step Forward

Dr. Charles Adams Says That Now Laws Are Needless as the State Board Is Powerless.

Many Point Out a Radical Provision of Journal Editors as the Only Certain Moral Remedy.

A Medical Paper Commends The Times's Articles and Denounces the Dishonest Practitioners.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 29.—Great excitement has been created in the capital of Illinois by a Dr. Rauch, charging the entire medical government of infanticide, and many conjectures are indulged in as to what action will probably be taken by the state board of health and the coming legislature to suppress this great evil of the age. It is known that Dr. Rauch of the state board of health died and various communications with different members of that body, bent up to this time the board has given no indications as to the probable course it will pursue. The Times's representative called at the office of the state board of health today and interviewed Dr. Rauch in the act of reading The Times's latest record revelations.

"What do you think of The Times' disclosures of infanticides?" Dr. Rauch was asked.

"While a surprise to the public The Times' revelations can not be a surprise to me. While I did not personally know who were engaged in this practice I did know that infanticide is a great and growing evil in this country. Things that good will result from this exposure."

"What would you suggest as the best means of preventing and suppressing this growing evil?"

"The most enforcement of the law as it now stands. The courts are ready to enforce the law if the guilt of the parties accused is clear, but the difficulty is to obtain legal evidence of the facts. While it is true that the use of the operative in throwing evidence in the minds of a prosecutor may sometimes run counter to justice, and that practically without them many can not be done with abortions, as the parties who perform them very rarely willingly furnish the evidence to convict the guilty persons, in many cases on death-beds refusing to reveal the names of the offenders. The same conditions obtains with regard to the so-called 'specialists' in private diseases, the victims as a rule each being willing to pay many times above the matter how badly they have been fleeced and swindled by these charlatans and frauds. In a case that recently occurred in one of the courts in this state a detective was used as a procuring witness. He, by certain knowledge, told the truth with regard to the case, while the defendant perjured himself. The circumstances also confirmed the evidence of the detective, and the jury gratefully returned a verdict of guilty against the defendant and he was acquitted. This will give some idea of the difficulty of getting in the evidence. If the board should revoke those certificates on the testimony of detectives the question would hardly come to the courts and its action subjected to a like ordeal. The board has refused to grant licenses to suspected abortionists. Practically very few have been granted and the entire subject for the reason that the criminal law provides for the punishment of those found guilty."

"Will the state board of health ask for special legislation this winter in the direction of suppressing this infamy by granting the board increased power and additional discretion?"

"I do not know; I have not had an opportunity to fully confer with my colleagues. The law as it now stands authorizes us to revoke the certificates of those guilty of unprofessional and dishonorable conduct. Thirty-eight certificates have under this clause been revoked by the board in the past. I will say, however, that the establishment of an examining board with authority to ignore diplomas would, no doubt, be a step in advance."

"What course will the board probably pursue for the punishment of those practitioners and midwives already convicted out of their own mouths?"

"The board will probably take no action for the conviction of practitioners and midwives unless formal complaint is made and evidence furnished of the guilt of the parties."

"How must that be done?"

"Well, some one must prefer formal charges, no matter who."

"Any one has a right to make a complaint, whether possessing personal knowledge of the crime or not?"

"I should say so—yes. But of course the complainant would have to sustain the charges by the production of witnesses—either The Times witnesses or somebody else."

"Can not the board subpœna these witnesses itself?"

"There's the point; no, sir, the statutes confer no power upon the state board to subpœna witnesses, no matter what crimes may be suspected. The existing law reads: 'The president and secretary shall have authority to administer oaths and the board to take testimony in all matters relating to its duties.' No power is conferred upon us to subpœna witnesses."

"How does the guilo of midwives to the population of Chicago compare with the number in other sections of the state?"

"It is two or three times as large. It would seem that the number is greater than legitimate practice could possibly demand, but that is not a matter in which we can have any authority."

"What is the nationality of the majority?"

"Foreign, of course. As The Times articles have shown, a large majority of them are of foreign birth."

Dr. Charles Adams.

"I am in favor of any law which will tend to raise the standard of the medical profession," said Dr. Charles Adams, 256 Twenty-eighth street. "I think there should be a board of examiners in the state who alone could grant a license to practice medicine. But I think the greater need is a national board, like the Royal College of Physicians or Royal College of Surgeons in England. No doctor can practice over there without a diploma from one or the other of these boards. Then it would soon be known what colleges did their work in need of cut students, and the best would get the most students of course. This board could have central points for examination in certain districts so all could reach them. We certainly need a change in our law in Illinois on this subject. The state board of health is powerless in scoundy matters. You know it revoked the license of Dr. Lucas R. Williams, who was practicing as Dr. Lucas, and he appealed and gained his case. The courts decided that the board could not prevent a man from practicing, even if it revoked his license under the present law. You see at once into what difficulties such a law will lead.

"I think The Times' articles are doing a world of good in that they are making a strong public sentiment against immoral and criminal practices. It is public sentiment as a whole more than the doctors as a class that needs the reforming. Take the patronage of the best families away from any physician who has put the moral courage to resist performing an abortion, and you watch him where it hurts such a man most—in his purse. He will quit it then. Many a physician with whom moral courage is weak has been driven to consent to the crime because his best patients would all hint openly that if he did not do it they would change physicians and get one who would. I had that to contend with at first, and lost many patrons because I always refused. One woman after importuning me was astounded that I was proof against the tears of a woman in such distress. She said she would send her husband around to plead with me. I told her that as her husband was a leading attorney and knew better I should give him a good thrashing if he dared come and make such a proposition to me. She got another doctor. That's the way it goes. I think The Times' articles are going to do a great deal in changing public sentiment against this. Why, at least two-thirds of society women in America will resort to this crime in order not to inconvenience themselves, or take away a few weeks' of pleasure. One woman told me she wouldn't go through with it again—would drown herself first. I told her not to do that. 'List the child come and then throw it away and let some one pick it up. Then it would be less criminal and not so immoral. She was indignant, of course. I then showed her what she was healthy, young, had a large house, good husband, ample means, and only three children; that there was no honest reason under heaven why she should not have children. She returned home and said no more about it. Her child came.

"I am heartily in favor of the lying-in hospital idea. We need it badly and should have it without delay."

Dr. J. R. Kippax.

"A new state law is very badly needed," said Dr. J. R. Kippax, "to provide for a board of health, with the powers of granting licenses, examining candidates, and revoking licenses on cause. But I do not think the board should be appointed by the governor. He is not supposed to know the best medical talent of the state. A hundred physicians would immediately begin wire-pulling for an appointment and the office would degenerate. The body should be elected by physicians and equal representation given to all schools. Suppose there were to be seven of each school, all the allopathic practitioners of the state should vote for their seven members, eclectics and homeopaths the same. The members of each school should examine candidates of their own school. All three schools could unite upon laws to be recommended and upon the revoking of a license. The law says at present a physician surrenders his license upon conviction of unprofessional conduct.' That word 'professional' is so elastic. I am confident it has defeated the end and enfeebled law many times. The word should be 'illegal.' There is some getting at that in Canada there is such a health board as is suggested. At election time every practitioner sends to the registrar of the board the names of those of his school he wishes to vote for. The seven or nine having the largest number of votes from their respective schools form the board; a two years' term with privilege of re-election would be good for our state.

"Should the hospital be founded, and I truly hope heaven will touch some millionaire's heart to start it, physicians should be chosen by competitive examination to supply it. Those, called internes, should be supervised by a visiting corps. Oh, no trouble to get medical service for that purpose. Physicians of all schools would be eager of the chance to practice in the institution. It is a degree to visit and treat there, not a charity. Little Toronto could teach us a lesson in that with her splendid Burnside lying-in hospital. No charity compares to this in my mind."

Dr. C. B. Gatchell.

"There is one great good accomplished by the recent course of The Times," said Dr. C. B. Gatchell. "It is safe to say there are about 1,000 medical students in this city who in the last few weeks have resolved never to yield to criminal temptation, no matter what it costs. Peculiarly in this matter students have been the censors of their professors. A professor tried and true has been greeted in the class-room with flowers; those who have gone on the black-list have been hissed."

"That is one result; what do you think of the legal enactment The Times is praying for?"

"I am not so positive as to that. We have a law that inflicts a very severe penalty upon infanticide, and courts to execute the law. Why arrange other means of punishment by way of the existing one fails?"

"That point is to secure a means that will not fail."

"Well, I am not decided that I would like to see a board of examiners, such as has been suggested, endowed with such arbitrary power as to revoke a license."

"Should a man convicted of malpractice retain his license?"

"No, but I should prefer to see it done more on the jury system. I am anxious at the same time to have the very best means of stopping the practice The Times has revealed."

"You prefer the jury system. Suppose a man be called before a justice of the peace for infanticide. The justice returns him to the grand jury. There, since that body is not composed of medical experts, he has a chance of clearing himself through their ignorance. Suppose he does not and his case goes before the Appellate court. He again has the same chance. He then fails. Has not the governor the 'arbitrary power,' as you put it, finally to decide his fate? Moreover, which forms the more intelligent jury in a man's case, seven or nine skilled physicians who understand the nature and extent of his crime better than a jury of laymen or twenty-three men who are not famed in regard to intricate understanding of law? The Belfield mode of referring such cases to a body of medicals certainly places the medical judiciary in capable hands."

"I believe what you say is true, and if no better way of reaching criminal physicians can be reached than that proposed I heartily indorse it. It is clear to me the only immediate reform must be in the profession. Doctors offer the gateway of escape to unfortunate girls and women not womanly enough to take Motherhood upon themselves. To wait for moral sentiment among the latter to advance to the point of never demanding such work is a matter of a couple of centuries. It will come, but not soon enough for one generation. I am heartily in favor of any law that will raise the standard of the profession, and think The Times has done a great deal toward that end."

Dr. F. Sherer.

"I do not quite approve of this state passing a rigid law that would discriminate against her own medical colleges to the advantage of those of surrounding states," said Dr. F. Sherer. "The medical colleges of Illinois are dependent upon patronage for support. They are not endowed by the state or any other power. They must be supported if they grow and prosper. Talented and learned professors can not be drawn and kept in a small college meagerly supported. If Illinois should pass a rigid law providing an examining board her medical students would simply go where law is not so stringent. And the educational interests of this state would be injured. I certainly believe in a high standard for physicians in every measure that will weed quacks from the place they hold at present, but my idea is reform from a higher source. If the general government has power to enforce the interstate-commerce act it certainly has power to legislate on the subject of a universal standard in medical practice in a way that would bear on all the States alike. The chief end should not be to push charlatans merely from one city to another where they may flourish upon the weakness of humanity as well, but to hedge them out of the profession entirely. A state law at present, as it appears to me, would turn from our colleges support needed to make them good, and merely dump our professional trash into our neighbors' yards. I want to see a higher game brought down than a state law—one for all the states.

"If that be not possible the profession is steadily advancing its own standard. In 1890 a new law will go into effect by which students must attend three courses of lectures instead of two, and attend a college for study four years. A course of lectures lasts six months, and attendance four-fifths of that time is obligatory. Really, law in this matter is at present in advance of public opinion. Law, however perfect, will not accomplish everything. Some one has suggested lectures on sexual ethics to be delivered to young girls and boys as a means of guarding against crime which may be the outgrowth of ignorance. I do not indorse professional talks on delicate matters to a great extent. No lectures to girls in school would accomplish what a good book on feminine hygiene would, which she should read and think over alone. A reform of this kind will never be reached in schools; it might in homes, but squeamishness has to be combated there. When I taught physiology in school a man came to me stating indignantly that he knew nothing of his insides nor his wife's and he didn't want any such nasty things taught his children. He is only a type of many. It is to be hoped that The Times's disclosures will awaken many women who have refused to deal plainly with their daughters to the horrors that in many cases result only from ignorance.

"I emphatically indorse the project of a lying-in hospital. We have a small one in connection with our college, and I know the great moral good that results from the influences that may be thrown around those placed in its care."

Dr. S. M. Crawford.

"I don't believe any man should be permitted to practice medicine in Illinois without passing an examination before a competent board, no matter where he graduated," said Dr. S. M. Crawford, 620 West Monroe street. "I believe the state board of health or examiners should have power not only to grant but to revoke the license whichever subsequent conduct or developments should prove any doctor unworthy. I believe, also, that when a man was convicted of bringing about an abortion his license should be revoked by this board, never to be restored. I say by the same board because I don't think one board should be set up to overrule the work of another.

"I think the lying-in hospital is an institution which is very badly needed. We must have it. I think your paper is doing the grandest work ever undertaken by any newspaper in the world. It is doing a great good and will yet do a greater. I am preparing a letter now covering some points which I intend for The Times, and will not say anything else tonight except 'go ahead.'"

Dr. D. F. Keyser.

To the Editor: I have watched with much interest the great work The Times has taken in hand in exposing the growing evil of infanticide in this country, which, if not speedily put a stop to, can not fail to utterly demoralize our entire American population to the destruction of their nationality if not of the nation itself, and while many of its resultant evils have been pointed out one, if possible more far-reaching than any other, has not so far been noticed by your many correspondents. I refer to the transmitted hereditary taint upon any children who may afterward be born of such unnatural parent.

In the analysis of the mental conditions of a prospective mother who, from pride of position, selfish desire for social freedom, or lack of natural maternal instincts, has deliberately planned to destroy her unborn babe we shall find the "damned spot" of murder indelibly stamped upon her spirit, and should she again conceive and bear a child, harboring for one moment during the period of utero-gestation a desire for its destruction, would almost certainly brand her offspring with the indelible maternal mind-marks of crime for an inheritance.

In a few decades we should see fewer criminals, a more prosperous people, kindlier business relations, the near cessation of domestic brawls, less cause for divorce, and a diminution of cases of insanity.

Permit me here to touch upon what has been suggested as remedies by some of your other correspondents. I refer to changes in the medical law, and while I would gladly aid any effort which could be reasonably expected to raise the standard of qualifications for physicians and surgeons higher, mentally and morally, yet I must agree with Dr. N. S. Davis that it would be impolitic to complicate a board with the extra judicial powers for which Dr. Belfield asks. That board would not ferret out the crime, but wait for detection and legal conviction. Then what need to confer upon it plenary powers? The very fact of convicting testimony to convict in a court of justice should carry with it the power to disbar. And if the courts, have not that power now the legislature should lose no time to enact a law to confer it. But to constitute an extra judicial body as judge, jury, prosecuting attorney, and witnesses without a right of appeal would be a dangerous precedent in a republic.

Again touching the subject of private medical colleges your correspondent, Dr. Flood, touched the right chord in suggesting state supervision of matriculants and graduates of a board of regents having no connection with any of those institutions. The private pecuniary interests of the schools induces them to receive and graduate as large a number as possible, and to graduate many who would not pass a board of regents properly constituted for fear of offending the physicians throughout the country who favor them by sending their students to them and this to the overburdening the profession with thousands whom nature never endowed with qualifications to become honorable and competent physicians.

I would favor only the matriculation of such studies as possess sterling integrity and undoubted mental as well as moral worth, and the graduation of only a select and well-qualified number. The present overcrowded state of the profession leads to the pecuniary embarrassment of a large number who in their straits fall easy victims to temptations; who readily become criminals for gain. The remedy for this evil lies in the education of females, the integrity and manhood of the males, the selection of only the most worthy for the sacred office of physician, and the teaching by diploma of no more than are required to walk upon the people, though the private revenues of the professors of corporate colleges be diminished thereby; all which in short will insure a better state of health, a higher degree of morals, and a happier future for our country.

St. Charles, Ill. D. F. Keyser, M. D.

HUNDREDS ARE SLAIN.

Clericals in the City of Mexico Attack the National Palace with Awful Results.

Troops Promptly Respond and the Mob is Repulsed After a Hand-to-Hand Fight.

Two Hundred and Fifty Persons Drop Dead in Their Tracks, Including Seventy-Two Priests.

About Two Thousand Men Are Taken Prisoners and Held to Answer to the Government.

Later Two Hundred Priests Are Arrested and It Is Expected That Will Be Promptly Executed.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 29.—There has been a great clerical uprising in the City of Mexico and a bloody defeat of the clericals, which took place yesterday.

At 8 o'clock Thursday night Father Jose Gasper, a well-known priest, hurried to the national palace and asked an immediate and secret conference with President Diaz.

What he disclosed is not known, but a few minutes afterward warrants of arrest were made out for a large number of prominent people, but when the officers went after them not one could be found.

At 11 o'clock that night an immense mob attacked the national palace. The garrisons of at least three barracks and some parks of artillery soon arrived.

The conflict was fierce and bloody, but the government held its own and gained the victory.

Three generals and several high officers were killed. The government took over 2,000 prisoners at the first fighting.

Seventy-two priests were among the slain, which numbered during the first onslaught 250.

Next day 200 additional priests were arrested and ordered to be shot, among these the archbishop.

A number of women got petitions to have them reprieved, but it is not thought they met with success.

Great excitement prevails in Chihuahua, for Gov. Laura Carillo at once called the state legislature together and ordered all priests to be arrested. It seems to have been the last effort of the clerical party against the government.

AFTER GOULD'S MONOPOLY.

His Purchase of the Baltimore & Ohio Telegraph Company Declared Illegal.

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 29.—Attorney-general Kirkpatrick this evening made application to Judge Simonton for a writ of quo warranto against the Western Union Telegraph company, Baltimore & Ohio Telegraph company, and Baltimore & Ohio Telegraph company of Pennsylvania, for violating the constitution of this state prohibiting the consolidation of competing lines. The bill filed sets forth that the Western Union Telegraph company Oct. 5, 1887, in violation of the constitution, purchased the entire corporate stock of the Baltimore & Ohio, amounting to $6,750 shares, of the par value of $3,375,000, and paid $6,000,000 therefor; that the Baltimore & Ohio is a competing line in this state with the Western Union, and that its stock lines and franchises were forfeited to the state because of said purchase. For which reason the attorney-general asks the forfeiture and escheat to the state of the lines, property, and franchises of the Western Union and Baltimore & Ohio of Pennsylvania. After reciting the facts he suggests that the court draw the writ of quo warranto commanding the sheriff of Dauphin county to summon the several companies proceeded against before the court of December next, then and there to show by what authority they claim to have and use their franchises, rights, and privileges, and why the same should not be declared to be escheated and forfeited to the state. The writ is returnable Jan. 22. Similar proceedings were instituted under the administration of Gov. Patterson against the Pennsylvania railroad company for an attempted absorption of the South Pennsylvania railroad company, and the courts sustained the action.

A CHICAGO FORGER ARRESTED.

Emil W. Klitzer Seized by the Milwaukee Police for Passing a Bad Check.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 29.—The police tonight arrested Emil W. Klitzer on an order from Chicago. Here he is said to be wanted for forgery. The Chicago police in their telegram said Klitzer's real name was Gaston De Rohan and he was an ex-priest with a checkered career. The crime for which he is wanted is passing a forged check a few weeks ago on Thomas Robinson, cashier of the McCrory Brewing company. The Chicago police are on the wrong trail so far as identifying Klitzer with Rohan is concerned. He is a slippery Italian who was born in Belgium. Klitzer was born in Dodge county, this state, and has lived in Milwaukee a good share of his life. It is thought, however, he was the man who worked the check on Robinson. He has been arrested here twice for collecting money under false pretenses. Once he represented himself as agent for the Little Sisters of the Poor and once as collector for a campaign fund. He admits having returned from Chicago two weeks ago. He will be taken to that city.

BIG TRIP OF SPALDING'S PLAYERS.

American Teams Now in Australia Will Make a Tour of the World.

New York, Dec. 29.—The following cablegram was received in this city today, showing that the American base-ball teams propose to make a circuit of the globe before they return to New York:

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 29.—Mr. Spalding today completed all arrangements by which the Australian base-ball party are to make a tour of the world, starting on the trip Monday, Jan. 7. The first stop will be at Ceylon, then to Calcutta, Delhi, and Bombay. It is quite possible that we shall also go to Alexandria, Cairo, and Constantinople. Then will commence the continental tour, which includes the principal cities of Europe—Naples, Rome, Florence, Vienna, Berlin, Brussels, Paris, London, Glasgow, Dublin, Belfast, Cork, and Liverpool. The weather ought to be especially favorable for out-door sports, and the American game of ball will be played before the crowned heads, nobles, and peasantry in the old world for the next few months. We return to America the first week of April and will then commence our exhibition trip through the leading eastern cities."

Forced to the Wall.

Winamac, Ind., Dec. 29.—Jake Keller of Monterey, Judson, prominent in mercantile circles in northern Indiana, assigned today.

Denver, Col., Dec. 29.—H. S. Peterson, a traveler, assigned to J. E. Drake this afternoon. Liabilities, about $40,000; liabilities estimated at $125,000.