

weakness or anæmia, or become pregnant again. He states that lactation is often prolonged to two, three, or four years among many savage races, African and Asian; and adds that in Japan, where the usual period of lactation is three or four years, the mortality among children under 5 years of age is low, since of 1,000 born 276 die before the age of 5 years in Japan, whereas 341 die in France.

SWISS AND GERMAN CLIMATE AND SCHOOLS.

A. Z. desires to hear of any healthy spot in Switzerland or Germany where the climate in winter is mild or in summer not too relaxing, and where a European girl, 8 years of age, born and bred in Burmah, could live *en pension* with her mother and obtain educational advantages.

. Lausanne, on the Lake of Geneva, is a well-known centre for education; the extremes of heat and cold are greater there than in England, but this is the case everywhere in Switzerland and Germany. Clarens and Montreux, also on the Lake of Geneva, are more sheltered and warmer in winter; the schools for children are also very good. In all these places French is the language spoken and there are numerous first-rate *pensions*. In Germany, Heidelberg or Wiesbaden would probably be found most suitable. In the German part of Switzerland the schools are excellent, but the climate is everywhere more severe than on the Lake of Geneva.

HOME FOR IMBECILE.

F.W.K. (London, E.) desires to know of an institution for an imbecile boy of 16 years, harmless, but with very slight promise of any improvement in mental power. His parents cannot afford to pay more than 10s. or 12s. per week.

. The case might be admitted at the Imbecile Asylum, Darenth. [Application should be made to the relieving officer of the district.

ANSWERS.

ENQUIRER.—There are a variety of such "cures." As they are proprietary secret remedies or processes we are unable to afford any information.

PROVIDENT.—No information has been received for [some time as to the position of the association mentioned.

RUSTIC will find a number of receipts for the various pastes, etc., used in the saddle room in *Workshop Receipts for the Use of Manufacturers, Mechanics, and Scientific Amateurs*, by Ernest Spon, published by E. and F. Spon, 125, Strand, W.C.; price 5s. The last edition of the work was published in 1895.

SIMULTANEOUS LIGATURE OF POPLITEAL ARTERY AND VEIN.

DR. MALCOLM MARGRAVIE (Newton Abbot) writes: In reply to "F.R.C.S.," whilst a dresser under Mr. John Langton at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in 1883, I well remember a butcher being admitted with a traumatic aneurysm of the popliteal space, the result of a stab with a sharp-pointed knife. Mr. Langton cut down upon it, and simultaneously ligatured artery and vein, the patient making an excellent recovery.

UNQUALIFIED DENTISTS AND OTHER PRACTITIONERS.

MEMBER.—A registered medical man, who by administering anæsthetics to the patients of an unqualified dentist or other unqualified practitioner, and thereby enables the latter to practise as if he were duly qualified, would probably be held to have rendered himself liable to be convicted of the offence known as "covering." If convicted his name might be erased from the *Register* by order of the General Medical Council.

COLOURLESS CHLORODYNE.

DR. ROBERT F. CAMPBELL (Wark-on-Tyne), in answer to K., sends the following formulae: B Chloroformi ʒi, spt. vini rect. ʒiij, ether. ʒiij, morphin. acet. gr. xl, acid. acet. q. s., acid. hydrocyan. dil. ʒvj, tr. capsici ʒiij, ol. anisi mxxx, ol. menth. pip. mxx, syrupi ad. ʒx. Mist. Dose ʒ to ʒo. Shake the bottle. B Tinct. capsici ʒiv, chloroformi ʒiij, spt. vini rect. ʒiv, morphin. hyd. gr. lxxx, atropin. sulph. gr. j, acid. hydrocyan. dil. ʒvj, ol. menth. pip. mxxv, glycerin. ad. ʒxxx. Dose ʒ to ʒo. m.

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS.

DR. BOND, Medical Officer of Health for the Gloucestershire Combined District, in answer to the inquiry on this subject, informs us that all the leading authorities for whom he acts have agreed to pay for the examination of throat specimens in cases of diphtheria and of blood in cases of typhoid fever. An arrangement has been made for the purpose with the British Institute of Preventive Medicine.

DR. ALBERT BRINDLEY (Bacteriological Department, Owens College, Manchester) writes: I beg to state that in this department of the College we make such examinations for many sanitary authorities in this neighbourhood. The work done here is paid for by these sanitary authorities, the practitioner incurring no expense whatever, but, on the other hand, receiving the usual notification fee in every case examined, whatever be the result of such examination. The chief authorities who send typhoid and diphtheria specimens to us are the following: The Corporations of Manchester, Salford, Oldham, Blackburn, Stockport, Crewe, and the Urban Districts of Whittington, Stretford, Haydock, Darwen, etc.

THE M.B. LOND. EXAMINATION.

In the answer published last week to "A Thirty Years Member" as to the books frequently read for this examination the names of the following works were inadvertently omitted and should be added to the list there given: *Medicine, A Manual of the Practice of Medicine* by Frederick Taylor, M.D., fourth edition (London, J. and A. Churchill, 1895, price 15s.); *Surgery, System of Surgery*, edited by Frederick Treves, F.R.C.S., vols. i

and ii (London, Cassell and Co., 1896, price 48s.); special subjects, *Lectures on Renal and Urinary Diseases* by Robert Saundby, M.D., second edition (Bristol, John Wright and Co., 1897, price 10s. 6d.); *Manual of Diseases of the Nervous System*, by Sir William R. Gowers, M.D., second edition (London, J. and A. Churchill, 1893).

NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

ERRATA.

In the notice of the presentation of the Jubilee medal to Dr. Richard Domenichetti in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of January 29th, it should have been stated that Dr. Domenichetti resided at Belshford Rectory, Horncastle.

In Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Ross's note on Muscular Exertion in Cycling in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of February 5th, page 415, para. 2, line 2, the word "inadequate" should read "adequate."

In the Liverpool Correspondence in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of February 5th, page 402, line 13, by a printer's error, the duration of the surgery of Dr. John Wallace was given as two years; it should have been twenty.

CONTRACT PRACTICE.

DR. JOHN BROOM (Kirkcubright, Forfarshire) writes: In the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of January 29th there is a letter regarding the departure of the St. John Ambulance Association from their usual employment of medical men solely, as lecturers, to the employment of laymen, clergy, etc. Does "Hygiene" only now awake to the fact when it affects himself that this ambulance association has only been doing what medical aid associations, Foresters societies, and our great charitable infirmaries have also been doing, namely, lowering the professional wage and getting work done for nothing for empty glory? What right has any member of our profession to do such work for nothing? You may say, or "Hygiene," he can do so if he likes. Well, then, the rest of us can boycott such a one if we like, as I have boycotted a medical aid association three years ago, and a neighbouring practitioner more recently who is a Foresters' Society doctor, and who expected me to attend his 43d.-a-month patients in his absence for professional reciprocity. In this place there are only three doctors, so that we know each other and the people pretty well. It is not enough to kill the medical aid associations. Let us combine and kill every society that contracts for doctoring at all. Let us boycott every brother practitioner who is engaged by any combination or society exclusively to its own advantage, and to the exclusion of other doctors. Let us refuse certificates to any society, insurance or otherwise, which goes entirely to one doctor in the place to the exclusion of others. Let every man reciprocate only with those who do justly with him, and are free from contract work of any kind.

MALE AND FEMALE NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

MR. W. E. LANGTON (Secretary of the Male and Female Nurses' Association, 69, Wigmore Street, W.) writes: It has come to the knowledge of my Committee that statements have been made to medical men and others calculated to injure the work carried on by the Male and Female Nurses' Association at No. 69, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, W. It is obviously for the benefit of the medical profession at large that an association of this character should be protected from attacks of the above description, that I feel sure that any of your readers to whom any of the statements complained of have been made will give such information to me, as will enable my Committee to take proper action against the offending parties. I need hardly say the Association court the fullest investigation.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE LONDON STUDENT.

AN OLD STUDENT writes: In answer to "M.D.'s" letter on this subject, allow me to point out that I suggested removing "unnecessary blocks" from the student's path rather than lowering the standard of the London University. "M.D." says that average intelligence is sufficient for the London University course. Yet numbers of able, hard workers are debarred from the degree by not having a clue to the labyrinth of Conjoint and University examinations when they start. The Colleges examine in: (1) Preliminary sciences, biology, etc.; (2) special sciences, anatomy, etc.; (3) final subjects, medicine, surgery, etc., like the University for the M.B. They give marks which are more or less known by which candidates could easily be divided into classes. The examiners for the Colleges and University (in some instances individually identical) are always intimately associated with one another as teachers. Under these circumstances it must seem monstrous that a scheme cannot be agreed upon by which students who take a high place in the Conjoint tests should be relieved of the infliction of double examinations to a reasonable degree. Again! Why should not the examination in medicine, which stamps a man a pure physician, be recognised by the London University as sufficient in that subject for a first-class general practitioner? The examination can hardly be inadequate. London University examiners are sometimes R.C.P. Censors.

That six residents from one hospital should pass the M.D. Lond. together is remarkable and very creditable, but as they would have had every facility for working together their circumstances were very favourable for success. I still believe my figures are correct, but I am certain more than fifty-seven candidates entered. Further, it is extremely improbable that the dates of passing the M.B. could "work out much the same" in the lists of passed and rejected. It is not likely that all, or nearly all, the eligible M.B.'s of 1896 entered. There were only 16 in the first class, yet 8 passed, 2 qualifying for medals, and beating the M.B.'s of 1894 and 1895. Again: it is highly improbable that the M.B.'s of all previous years contributed only 4 candidates. "M.D." seems to strengthen my position rather than weaken it. The fact that two London medical teachers and examiners (one of them M.D. Lond.) have expressed cordial approval of my first letter has emboldened me to trespass a second time on your valuable space.