

AN ALLEGED CURE FOR CONSUMPTION.

MR. H. OSBORNE O'HAGAN (Cass del Mare, Cabbe Roquebrune, Alpes Maritimes, France), writes: A correspondent has forwarded me a paragraph from a recent number of your JOURNAL (December 26th, p. 1904) in reference to the above. I regret that publicity has so soon been given to my efforts, as my object has been to secure for the treatment a thorough trial in a hundred hospitals and by some hundreds of physicians before general attention is drawn to the subject. I fear, however, that if I now remain silent I shall be taken to have concurred in all your remarks. In recent addresses to members of the medical profession it has been urged that laymen should, whenever possible, help in the fight with the "white plague"; and that must be my excuse—if any be wanted—for entering into a matter which concerns the physician rather than the layman. Chance brought in my way friends who had been treated by the late Dr. Churchill with marked results, and that led me to send to him others (some medical friends) for the treatment, not only for consumption, but for other ailments in which he specialized. I never knew Dr. Churchill, or had occasion to consult him myself, but I formed a very high estimate of his treatment, part of which I knew to be secret. When Dr. Churchill died I had the curiosity to ascertain if he had left any directions for his treatment to be published, and finding that he had not done so, I did what probably many others in my position and with my convictions would have done—I purchased whatever rights there were in the treatment with a view to giving them to the medical profession, and thus benefiting suffering humanity. I expected much difficulty in securing a hearing, but I found practically none, and my eighteen months' work shows much better results than I could have anticipated. Quite a large number of hospitals are allowing trials to be made within their walls, and the number of physicians who are testing the treatment far exceeds the number mentioned by you. That the treatment helps to alleviate the painful symptoms, and afterwards in building up the patients in many cases, there can be no question, but whether it does so more effectively than other methods it is for each physician who tries the treatment to determine. I do not claim that the treatment ever cures, because I doubt if there is any cure for consumption; but in many cases I have seen very satisfactory results—and with care there has been no relapse for twenty years. If some other and better treatment exists or can be brought forward I shall have no reason for disappointment, because such suffering as it has already relieved under my own observation would amply repay me for the time and money expended, and it would give me pleasure to know that a better treatment was being brought into practice. Hospitals and medical men are welcome to the little knowledge I have, but time alone will show the real or permanent benefit. I only ask the medical profession to give the treatment a trial, and put it to such use or employ it to such extent as may be justified. Much good and no harm can result.

MOTOR BICYCLES.

FLEET SURGEON W. G. K. BARNES, R.N. (Royal Marine Dépôt, Walmer), writes: I have been a keen bicyclist since boyhood, and was anxious to take to motor bicycling, but feared the exertion of getting along a heavy machine, in case of a breakdown, and of starting, as I was not prepared to rush violently along and take a flying leap into the saddle. While on leave last summer I saw a good deal of a man over 60 years of age and weighing 13½ st.: he was riding a "Wolf" machine, which he informed me was eminently satisfactory in Central Wales; moreover, its cost was only 19 guineas. After looking about in vain for something better, I invested in a "Wolf" in October, and can strongly recommend it to any one who wants what I wanted. It is a good hill-climber with very slight pedal assistance, and can readily do well over the legal on ordinary roads. There is a reason why a light-weight machine requires only very slight pedal assistance. Of course, on ordinary main-road hills no pedal assistance at all is required. The weight is just 80 lb. with all on and tanks filled. I run the machine on the stand, and then easily carry it out of doors. To mount, I keep the left foot on the ground, sit comfortably in the saddle, switch on, have the right pedal nearly up, give a sharp stroke with the right foot, catch the left pedal; then, two or three strokes, shut the exhaust with my left thumb, and my machine is off. At corners, in traffic, or passing a doubtful-looking horse, I just switch off, the switch being always under my right thumb; the momentum, aided, if necessary, by a stroke of the pedals, carry me past, then switch on and the machine restarts at once. To dismount I merely switch off, pull the brakes, and put left foot on the ground. The engine is about as simple as it can be and every thing is most accessible. My longest run has been forty miles, but work and weather have been responsible for this. I use it for short journeys about the barracks as freely as I would a push-bicycle, and, using a little common sense, it gives no trouble. One evening I got caught in a thick fog six miles from home. I unshipped the belt and pedalled the machine almost as easily as a push-bicycle. I should certainly have no hesitation, in case of a breakdown, in undertaking a twenty-miles' ride pedalling. I am quite convinced that it is an ideal machine for a doctor or for a naval officer to carry on board ship. I use accumulator and coil for preference, chiefly because I understand them and know very little of magnetos. I should be very pleased to answer any reasonable questions

about the machine. In conclusion, I will say that I have no interest whatever in the Wearwell Company.

WERTHEIM'S OPERATION.

MR. VICTOR BONNEY informs us that up to December 10th, the date on which he read at the Harveian Society his paper on the prevention and diagnosis of carcinoma of the cervix, the number of operations for cervical carcinoma which he and Dr. Comyns Berkeley together had performed by Wertheim's method was 28, and not 20 as previously stated. The number of deaths was four.

TREATMENT OF NEPHRITIS.

DR. S. G. MOORE, M.D., D.P.H. (M.O.H. Huddersfield) writes: The following was communicated to me by a gentleman returning from a malarious district in Africa, where the great dread was haemoglobinemic fever. He assured me that it had been exceptionally successful. It seems to be allied to a form of serumtherapy which is somewhat discredited, I think, at present. Yet, because this gentleman assured me that under his personal observation it had been so very successful, I think it worth while to communicate the following translation of Dr. Touin's note:

[Translation.]

An absolutely fresh pig's kidney is decorticated and minced. It is next washed rapidly in distilled water to remove any urine which may be contained in the mince. The minced kidney is next pounded in a mortar with 450 c.cm. of artificial serum at 7.50 per 1,000; the resulting broth is left standing in a cool place, in summer surrounded by ice. At the end of four hours the supernatant liquid is decanted. It forms about 400 c.cm. of a sort of extract of meat, which the patient should take in three or four doses during the twenty-four hours. The medicament may be taken in a cup of beef-tea or soup, on the express condition that the temperature of the mixture is not more than 38° C. This treatment should not be continued for more than ten days consecutively.

Opportunities for the treatment of nephritis of malarial origin are infrequent in these latitudes, but possibly this fresh infusion of nephritic tissue may be of service in the ordinary forms of acute nephritis.

THE LENVAL OTOLOGICAL PRIZE.

BARON DE LENVAL, on the occasion of the Third International Otolological Congress, founded a prize of 3,000 francs to be awarded to such person as should invent and produce a small portable instrument materially assisting the hearing of the deaf. As no such instrument has yet been forthcoming to the satisfaction of the international jury appointed to adjudicate upon the matter, the accumulated interest of four years, amounting to about 400 francs, will be awarded as a prize for the best work that has been published during the last four years in the departments of the anatomy, physiology, or pathology of the organ of hearing. Competing works should be sent to the President of the jury, Professor Dr. A. Politzer, I. Gonzagasse 19, Vienna, before the end of February, 1909. The publication of the verdict of the jury and the presentation of the prize to the successful competitor will take place at the Eighth International Congress to be held at Buda-Pesth in August of this year. The following gentlemen constitute the international jury: Professor Adam Politzer, President; Dr. Benini, Warsaw; Dr. Gellé, Paris; Professor Urban Pritchard, London; Professor Kirchner, Würzburg; Professor Grazzi, Florence; Professor Moure, Bordeaux; Professor Böke, Buda-Pesth.

A CORRECTION.

WITH reference to the case of bismuth poisoning reported in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 28th, 1908, p. 1604, Dr. Alexander Don has informed us that by mistake bismuth carbonate was injected instead of bismuth subnitrate. Dr. Don thinks it well to correct the error, as the subnitrate does not seem to be so liable to set up poisoning.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

	£	s.	d.
Eight lines and under	0	4	0
Each additional line	0	0	6
A whole column	2	13	4
A page	8	0	0

An average line contains six words.

All remittances by Post Office Orders must be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 429, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication; and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

N.B.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive letters at Postes Restantes addressed either in initials or numbers.