

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE PREPARATIONS OF IPECACUANHA IN THE APPENDIX TO THE "PHARMACOPEIA."

SIR,—I perceive from the remarks made in the JOURNAL of the 15th instant, that some objection is made to the introduction into the appendix of the forthcoming edition of the *British Pharmacopœia* of the acetum and oxymel of ipecacuanha. It is urged that a tincture of this rhizome already exists in some foreign Pharmacopœias, and that it would be desirable to learn the value of this before adopting Mr. Johnson's vinegar of ipecacuanha. But the value of this tincture has been ascertained; and in a paper which I read before the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain about a year ago, and which was noticed in our JOURNAL of March 23rd, 1872 (p. 318), I showed that this preparation was, like the wine of ipecacuanha, a very unstable one. Without question, the best menstruum for this drug is acetic acid, by which all the virtues of the rhizome are held permanently in solution. This cannot be said of sherry or of dilute alcohol, for the wine and the tincture allow the gradual deposition of cephalate of emetia, and thus these preparations become more and more feeble. In my paper, I urged the adoption in the next edition of the *Pharmacopœia* of Mr. Carteighe's formula for an acetum and an oxymel, but I also recommended that so well known a remedy as the ipecacuanha wine should not at present be expunged from that codex.

I am, etc., DYCE DUCKWORTH, M.D.

February 25th, 1873.

Our observation, which Dr. Dyce Duckworth somewhat misapprehends, was as follows. Some hesitation is required in introducing another liquid preparation of ipecacuanha. The tincture is already in some of the foreign Pharmacopœias; and it would be desirable to learn the value of this, before adopting the vinegar of ipecacuanha recommended by Mr. George Johnson several years ago. It may be well to refer to the literature of the subject. Mr. George Johnson's communication may be found at length in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, vol. xx, 1860-61, p. 303; vol. xxv, 1865-66, p. 179. The advantages of the acetum over the vinum ipecacuanhæ were very fully set forth then, and brought by him under the notice of the last Pharmacopœia Committee in the first communication, and again renewed before the publication of the *Pharmacopœia* of 1867. The formula of Mr. Carteighe appears to be in the main that of the acetum and oxymel ipecacuanhæ, of which Messrs. Ferris and Co. of Bristol have for some time been accustomed to prepare and sell large quantities. The main object of our comment was to call attention to the fact, that the acetum and oxymel ipecacuanhæ had both been very carefully brought under notice by Mr. George Johnson on the occasion of the previous edition of the *Pharmacopœia*, and had apparently not been appreciated; and that the proposal to admit it now should therefore be considered with reference to its actual antecedents, and to the proposition, which dates back beyond Dr. Dyce Duckworth's communication.

## EXERCISE AND TRAINING.

SIR,—The great interest which the subject of exercise and training possesses for many at the present time, both young and old, induced me to communicate to the editor of *Bell's Life* (November 2nd, 1872) the results of observations which I thought might be useful in establishing the principles on which exercise should be regulated. To imagine oneself again in the society of zealous oarsmen was necessary, in order to write in such a way as could be understood by them. I am inclined now to think that the subject requires some knowledge of physiology in order to be able to understand the simplest propositions; and it becomes more necessary, therefore, for our profession to devote attention to it.—I am, etc.,

ROBERT J. LEE.

March 3rd, 1873.

## EXCISION OF THE KNEE.

SIR,—Your report of the meeting of the Medical and Chirurgical Society on February 1st states that "Mr. Croft said in some cases they had performed the operation (excision of knee-joint) at St. Thomas's Hospitals on patients over 40. Mr. Sydney Jones had performed it for rheumatic arthritis on a patient somewhat advanced in life." I have just looked over the particulars of excision of the knee joint in the *St. Thomas's Hospital Statistical Reports*, I find that, out of sixty-six cases operated on between 1856 and 1872, and eight cases reported by Mr. Jones in the current volume of the *Hospital Reports*, there were two patients over

40 years of age—viz., one aged 42, and a second aged 44 years. I was not certain of the age of the subject of rheumatic arthritis for whom Mr. Sydney Jones excised the joint. He has informed me that the man was under 40. At the meeting, I said that the operation had been attended with very good success at St. Thomas's. The published reports support my statement. Out of seventy-four cases operated upon in the period mentioned, fifty-six recovered; four recovered after subsequent amputation, one left the hospital unrelieved, and thirteen died.

I am, etc.,

JOHN CROFT.

61, Brook Street, March 3rd, 1873.

## THE CASE OF MR. CROFT.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me, through the medium of your valuable columns, to tender my sincere and grateful thanks to the gentlemen who nobly formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of bringing my very painful case before my professional brethren and the public, and raising a fund to enable me to meet the very heavy expenses necessarily incurred by my defence? I cannot express how sensibly I feel indebted to those gentlemen who, with the Committee, have so handsomely contributed to assist me in my very great distress.

The case came before the Lord Chief Justice Bovill at the Warwick Assizes last week; and, upon his lordship's very lucid explanation of the law relative to medical certificates in his charge to the grand jury, I am thankful to say that both bills for felony and misdemeanour, which the prosecution had filed against me, were at once ignored. It is my intention to have a number of copies of his lordship's charge struck off; and I shall be pleased to forward one to any of my professional brethren who will apply for one. Again asking my many kind friends to accept my very grateful thanks through your JOURNAL,

I am, etc.,

THOS. H. W. CROFT.

Snitterfield, March 5th, 1873.

## HÆMATOZOA AND CHYLURIA.

SIR,—With reference to Dr. T. R. Lewis's important discovery of living nematoid worms in the blood of persons affected with chyluria, I may add to the excellent abstract of his paper given in the JOURNAL for February that the occurrence of the same, or very similar, parasites in the human urine in cases of this disease was observed by Wucherer about two years ago, very nearly at the same time that they were noticed there by Dr. Lewis himself. I have not seen Wucherer's original paper, so do not know the exact priority of the two observations; but this is a matter of very small moment. The same or similar parasites had been previously observed in the urine of dogs, as you mention, by Gruby and Delafond, and the discovery of them as human hæmatozoa belongs exclusively to Dr. Lewis.

Dr. Crevaux of the French navy published a memoir on the same subject a few months ago (*De l'Hématurie Chyleuse ou Graisseuse des Pays Chauds*: A. Delahaye, Paris, 1872); and a drawing which, though less elaborate, agrees with those of Dr. Lewis appeared in the *Montpellier Revue des Sciences Naturelles* for last September, by Dr. A. Corre, from specimens supplied by Dr. Crevaux. The dimensions given, .2 to .265 of a millimeter long by .006 to .007 broad, are very nearly those given by Dr. Lewis.

The "active linear vibrios," common in decomposing fluids, of which Dr. Priestley writes to you in the JOURNAL for February, have, of course, nothing to do with these nematoid *filariæ*; unless, indeed, we adopt very advanced views on transmutation not of species, but of classes.

I am, etc.,

P. H. PYE-SMITH.

February 27th, 1873.

## OBITUARY.

JOHN BISHOP HAYNES, F.R.C.S. Eng., OF EVESHAM.

OF that small body of medical practitioners who, in 1832, responded to the call of Sir Charles Hastings to co-operate with him in the formation of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association—now better known to most of its members under the title of the British Medical Association—there can be now but few survivors. One of them has recently passed away. Mr. John B. Haynes, of Evesham, who, at the meeting in Worcester, in 1832, seconded Sir Charles Hastings's proposal for the formation of the Association, died on February 17th, at the age of seventy. Mr. Haynes was educated at Guy's Hospital; he passed the examination of the Apothecaries' Company in 1825, and that of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1826, and he was elected a Fellow of the College in 1852. For some time he was a demonstrator