anæmic patient. Pruritus as a pure neurosis must be rare, and possibly "Member" may eventually, by frequent observation, find some previously overlooked cause. A case in my own practice of some years' standing was due to a stenotic condition of the os and cervix, and was cured by instrumental dilatation. A slight leucorrhœal discharge, and even the catamenia, under certain conditions, will occasionally set up irritation at the ostium vaginæ. If no local or general cause can be ascertained, empirical treatment has to be relied on; and if the usual remedies such as acid carbolic., ac. hydrocyanic. dil., opium and lead acetate and alkaline lotions have failed, the following might be tried: Chloral hydrate ʒiij in liq. ʒiv, camphor and starch in powder, thymol, menthol, tinct. iodi, or solid argent. nit. applied locally. I have found poppy-head fomentations with borax very comforting to the patient. The underclothing should be of fine texture, and where expense is not considered silk will be found best, as causing the least local irritation. A suitable diet, abundance of sunlight and fresh air are of course necessary. A change of air and sea-bathing might be found useful, especially if the patient is at all strumous, and a course of treatment at Woodhall Spa might prove very efficacious in some instances.

MEMBER desires to thank the gentlemen who have kindly given him the benefit of their experience on the above subject. In reference to the remarks of "P. F. M," he states that the patient in question was seen in consultation by the leading specialist in town, and only on the total failure of the treatment prescribed was an appeal made through the inquiry column.

NOTES, LETTERS, Etc.

A CORRECTION.

THE remarks in the discussion on the General Medical Council, in relation to the medical profession in the Section of Ethics (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, August 29th, p. 502) assigned to Dr. J. C. Douglas, of Whitehorn, should have been attributed to Dr. W. Douglas, of Leamington Spa.

PARKE MEMORIAL FUND.

THE following additional subscriptions have been received from officers of the Army Medical Staff serving at Secunderabad:

	Rs.		Rs.
Surgeon-Colonel H. S. Muir ...	10	Surgeon-Major E. O. Wight ...	5
Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel A. Anderson	5	Surgeon-Captain C. W. Johnson.	5
Surgeon-Major J. O. G. Sandiford	5	Surgeon-Captain L. Way	5
Surgeon-Major M Dundon ...	5	Surgeon-Major F. Symons ...	5
Surgeon-Major C. S. Magrath..	5	Surgeon-Lieutenant A. J. Lattey	5
		Surgeon-Lieutenant W. W. Smith	5

Total 60 Rupees = £3 9s. 6d.

CONVALESCENT HOME.

WE are requested to mention that a private home for cases convalescent after scarlet or other fevers, has been opened at the Blanch House, Blanch Farm, near High Barnet, Herts. under the superintendence of the former lady superintendent of the Hornsey Fever Hospital. There seems to be much need of such homes, and probably many practitioners might be glad to know of such a place, especially now that scarlet fever is so rife.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.

MESSRS. W. B. HILLIARD AND SONS write: We read with interest Mr. C. H. Golding-Bird's letter in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of September 19th on Artificial Limbs. We have frequently made for poor patients a substitute similar to what he describes with the rolling "canoe" extremity. They are very useful and comfortable for walking with, but we find that coal miners, iron founders, etc., who only stand or kneel at their work, and generally on rough wet ground, prefer the plain round end, which we usually make about three inches in diameter.

BICYCLE SADDLES.

DR. W. W. HARDWICKE (East Molesey) writes: This is a very important subject to riders, for there is no comfort to be obtained with the best of machines without a suitable saddle; in fact, unsuitable ones do actual harm. In purchasing a bicycle, most of the attention is usually concentrated upon the machine itself, the suitability of the saddle to the weight of the rider being frequently neglected, with consequent discomfort afterwards, it being taken for granted with tiros that the saddle is "all right."

Now, saddles vary very much, and particularly so in shape and spring, and must necessarily vary according to the size and weight of the rider, a broad-shouldered man naturally requiring a broader seat than one of slim proportions; and all saddles with the exception of divided ones, are faulty in not being cut out sufficiently where they press upon the urethra in the male and the vulva in the female. No saddle ought to be less than 8½ inches across the posterior portion, in order to take comfortably both ischial tuberosities. The middle portion which, as saddles are now made, presses on the urethra and vulva, ought to be cut out with the penknife to a pear-shaped opening, measuring 1½ inch across the posterior portion, and be graduated off anteriorly to 1⅛ inch; the length of the opening being about 6⅓ inches, and starting from about 2 inches from the back of the saddle. After cutting out the necessary portion of leather, the sharp edges of the opening may be bevelled off by running the handle of a table knife round once or twice, after which a thin (not thick) felt pad may be tied over. The small slits made in the saddles as now sold are simply useless as regards pressure on the perineum. For a light weight nothing beats the "Brooks B. 90" pattern; the great length of spring produces much comfort in riding, the rider sitting in a small hammock and feeling no vibration from bad roads; but for a heavy weight, the "B. 40" pattern, broad behind, is better. The ordinary "Brooks Light Roadster," so frequently supplied with bicycles, is too firm and rigid for a light weight, owing to the wires which constitute the spring being twisted together, with the result that every little unevenness of the road is felt. The most comfortable saddles are those which have upright coils anteriorly, besides coils posteriorly, which may be transverse or upright. The saddle ought to be tipped up in front just sufficient to keep the ischial tuberosities comfortably upon the back part of the seat, but no more. The most comfortable saddle I ever rode on was one like "Brooks B. 90," very long in the spring, and made by Webb and Co., of Birmingham, its only fault being its narrowness posteriorly, but this may have been rectified since, as it was an old pattern. I do not, however, see it quoted in modern lists.

CYCLING FOR LADIES.

MR. T. S. ELLIS (Gloucester) writes: My quotation was from reports of Mr. Turner's paper in the *Standard* and *Daily News*, which, being identical, seemed to be an authority. Such stiffness as Mr. Turner indicates I should regard as largely due not to muscular "play," but to want of it—to the holding of the trunk and arms too rigidly in one position. But apart from this, and adding the word "nearly" to qualify the statement as to "every muscle in the body," I may still ask, What of the muscles concerned in putting the body into that which surgeons call "the good position"; of those which curve the loins, throwing the pelvis forwards, and consequently the head and thorax backwards; of those which draw the scapula towards the spine, and hold the shoulders backwards and downwards; of those which elevate the arms above the head and promote the free inspiration associated with that movement; of the important levator, which lifts up, and in lifting closes, the lower outlets of the body; of the glutei, which, in raising the body to the erect position and holding it there, serve also to support the knees? Surely it will not be contended that these muscles are "called into play"; and, if not, it should be recognised that they are important. Cycling is, on many grounds, of enormous value, but it has inevitable disadvantages, and for these compensation should be found in exercises involving more varied positions and movements. Ladies are not likely to recognise the importance of this if told that, in cycling, every or nearly every muscle in the body is called into play.

SIMPLE METHOD FOR PHOTOMICROGRAPHY.

DR. R. SLOCOCK (Junior Medical Officer, County Asylum, Stafford) writes: It may, perhaps, interest some of the readers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL to know that fair specimens of microphotographs can be taken with a "Kodak." It occurred to me that it would be much simpler and quicker if a "Kodak" could be used instead of the large and troublesome paraphernalia usually required for microphotography. I rested the "Kodak" on the eyepiece of the microscope, having previously obtained a clear definition of the section, and, placing the aperture centrally, gave from one to two or three minutes' exposure; ⅙ inch and ¼ were used. The coarser objects have come out clearly, the section of brain of senile dementia showing under ¼ not so well, but spider cells with processes attached to a vessel can be defined. I have only taken to photography for two months, so it is easy for anyone to do. I have no personal interest whatever in the sale of this form of camera, but state my results in case others may not know of its being practicable. The focal length is said to be not less than 4½ feet, so this might deter one from even trying to take a microphotograph at less than 1 foot. I enclose four specimens taken by myself, but expect better results can be got.

*** It is a fact not generally known that any ordinary camera is all that is necessary for the requirements of photomicrography, except in very special circumstances. All that is necessary is to remove the lens of the camera and the eyepiece of the microscope, and so to arrange matters that a sharp image is projected on the ground-glass screen. Of course by this method no great magnification is obtained; in order to achieve this a much greater length of camera is necessary than most cameras afford. The photographs sent by Dr. Slocock afford ample evidence that very good microphotographs can be obtained by the use of very simple apparatus.

DEATH FOLLOWING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ETHER.

G. C. writes, with reference to the case of "Death following the Administration of Ether" at Tewkesbury Hospital in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 29th: After reading through the detailed account given, I feel justified in asking the question, "Was the fatal result due to the anæsthetic or was it the result of pulmonary embolism and thrombosis following upon surgical interference of varicose veins?" The course of events seems strongly suggestive of a small embolus, which had lodged itself in one of the smaller divisions of the pulmonary artery, and then, after a short interval, been followed by thrombosis around the impaction and rapid death from asphyxia. The events narrated were: "First, an onset of slight cyanosis, the breathing continuing well, and the cyanosis gradually diminishing. Then suddenly it became more intense, with irregular breathing." Again, the patient recovered under artificial respiration, and was carried upstairs and put to bed. "Five minutes afterwards she became deeply cyanosed, stopped breathing, and died." If this be really a death due to the administration of ether, it would be a very uncomfortable accident for those who, like myself, believe ether to be practically free from serious risk. The onset and course of the fatal symptoms were, however, so unusually prolonged and so unlike what we are accustomed to read about in deaths under anæsthetics that they would suggest to one's mind a very close resemblance to those terrible cases of pulmonary embolism and thrombosis which sometimes occur, apart from anæsthesia, and due to various distant pathological conditions affecting the circulatory system. If so, in this instance we must entirely acquit the ether of all blame and look upon the case as one of those "untoward incidents" which no human agency can avert.

PASTEUR AND PSEUDO-PASTEUR FILTERS.

IT is announced that sanction has been granted for the installation of Pasteur filters in the British barracks at Dinapore and Peshawar. Following on the adoption of the same system by the Municipality of Darjeeling for the public waterworks—a step which was taken by sanction of the Government of India—the present announcement seems to show that the use of Pasteur filtration has at last begun to take root in India. The authorities concerned are to be congratulated

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