

the Eyeball for Inflammation, or be used internally for Complaints of Throat and Chest. It will draw out every particle of injurious matter before healing any Ulcer or Sore, thus preventing a return of the trouble. Prompt application to Wound, Scald, or Burn is the best preventive of Blood Poisoning.

Lengthy directions are given for its use in a variety of cases; the following will suffice as examples:

Ophthalmia and Inflammation of the Eye.—Rub the Indian Balm round the Eyes two or three times a day. In acute cases apply inside the lids.

Inflammation of the Gums, Toothache, and Faceache.—Well rub the Balm on the Gums and Face. When the Tooth is hollow the Balm can be inserted on cotton wadding.

Inflammation of the Bowels and Pain in the Small of the Back.—Foment the parts with hot water, and briskly rub with Balm (10 to 15 minutes at a time) till relieved.

It would appear to be equally efficacious when administered internally, for we read:

Sufferers from Asthma, Croup, Bronchitis, and all Throat or Chest Complaints find the soothing and healing effects of Indian Balm, when taken internally on lump sugar, to be immediate and remarkable. It also enables patients to get rid of injurious phlegm. Public Speakers and Singers should use it. The Balm is pleasant to use and effectual in operation.

The "Balm" consisted of a brownish-yellow ointment. Analysis showed the presence of about 7 per cent. of volatile oil, in which oil of eucalyptus predominated, and a fatty basis. The oil did not contain as much cineol as an ordinary good specimen of eucalyptus oil, and some evidence was obtained of the presence of essential oil of camphor, terebene, and oil of lemon. The solid basis contained, besides fatty constituents, a very small amount of ammonia, and a little of a resinous substance; the latter was not ordinary resin, but showed no distinctive characters sufficing for its identification. It may have been derived from balsam of Peru, or some similar ingredient, but comparison of its properties pointed to the probability of a mixture of balsamic substances. The statement that seventeen ingredients are present may be true, for the essential ingredients are a fatty basis, a mixture of volatile oils, and a resin, and each one of these can easily be made of an almost unlimited number of ingredients mixed together; no other active substance was found. An ointment prepared from the following formula, which is based on the analytical results obtained with the "balm," strongly resembled the latter, and only differed from it in minor points:

Lard	...	...	...	35	per cent.
Cocanut oil	...	...	...	35	" "
Tallow	...	...	...	10	" "
Rape oil	...	...	...	5	" "
Lanoline, anhydrous	...	...	...	4.5	" "
Balsam of Peru	...	...	...	1	" "
Oil of eucalyptus	...	...	...	5	" "
Terebene	...	...	...	1.5	" "
Essential oil of camphor	...	...	...	1.5	" "
Essential oil of lemon	...	...	...	0.5	" "
Solution of ammonia	...	...	...	1	" "
Annatto colouring	...	...	...		a sufficiency.

The circulars sent out with the Balm show that the proprietors sell a number of other preparations, including Herbal "M," "D," or "A" mixtures for "Menhoragia (Profuse M), Dysmenorrhœa (Painful and Imperfect M), or Amenorrhœa (Suppressed M)." The mixtures are declared to be "harmless, yet most effectual."

We are told that Indian Balm is much patronized by persons whose theological opinions are of a certain colour, and we have observed the following note on the circular:

Special terms are given to Charities and Missions. Where there is no agent, any obliging chemist can procure a single box from his usual Wholesale House, or keep a small quantity on hand for the convenience of a customer. There is no Ointment on the market to compare with Indian Balm for value and efficacy. A fair trial will prove this to be no rash or unfounded statement, but the exact truth.

## MOTOR CARS FOR MEDICAL MEN.

### INCOME TAX AND DEPRECIATION OF MOTOR CARS.

SEVERAL cases have come to our notice recently in which the Inland Revenue have refused to allow a sum to represent the "diminished value in respect of wear and tear" of motor cars and other machinery used by medical men. This refusal is, we understand, based on the fact that the Income Tax Act that provides for allowance for depreciation of "machinery or plant used for the purposes of the concern" applies in terms only to a "trade manufacture, adventure, or concern in the nature of trade." The medical profession is not regarded for this pur-

pose as falling within this description, though in every other respect the profits of the profession are charged to income tax under precisely the same regulations. The result is that a trader who provides a car to enable his travellers to visit customers, or who uses a car himself in the course of his business is entitled to an annual allowance for depreciation, while the medical man is debarred from such an allowance, and this merely because in 1878, when the Act providing for depreciation of machinery was passed, the use of machinery in the exercise of a "profession" was not contemplated.

In view of the decision of the Inland Revenue in regard to the allowance for wear and tear, especial care should be taken to ensure that the expense of replacing an old car by a new one is claimed against the receipts of the year in which the expense is incurred. The sum to be claimed will be the full cost of the old car, and it may be remarked that if a car has been renewed since the beginning of 1908 the expense would, by the operation of the average, affect the income-tax assessment of the current year 1911-12. In any case in which such an expense has been incurred within that period and not claimed as a deduction it will be well to write to the Surveyor of Taxes at once, applying for a reduction of the current assessment by a sum representing one-third of the cost of replacing the old car. If the Surveyor of Taxes demurs to the allowance of the cost of replacement, it should be pointed out to him that the section providing for the cost of renewals is specifically made applicable to professions by the Income Tax Act of 1842 (Third Rule of the Second Case, Schedule D).

### THE FORD CAR.

"MOTOR NOVICE," before purchasing, would be glad to have the opinion of any reader who possesses a 20-h.p. 5-seater "Ford" motor car, model T., whether found satisfactory.

DR. A. E. KENNEDY (Plaistow, E.) writes: Would any member who has owned a "Ford" car for a year give information as to how it has worn and what defects it has developed? Such information is so valuable, and it is almost impossible to get unfavourable reports through the motor papers.

### MOTOR CYCLE.

GALEN writes: A middle-aged practitioner wishes to make use of a light-weight motor cycle. District not very hilly. He will be glad to know what make is most suitable, especially one very easy to start.

## LITERARY NOTES.

MESSRS. J. AND A. CHURCHILL have ready for publication the following new editions of well-known Students' Text-books: A third edition of Dr. T. W. Eden's *Manual of Midwifery*; 150 pages have been added to the text, and the book contains 60 additional illustrations; a fourth edition of Professor Tanner Hewlett's *Manual of Bacteriology*; a fourth edition of *A Handbook of Physics and Chemistry*, by Herbert E. Corbin and Archibald M. Stewart, Headmaster of Alresford Grammar School; this book now covers the extended syllabus of work required for the first examination of the Royal Colleges; a ninth edition of *Quantitative Chemical Analysis*, by Frank Clowes and J. Bernard Coleman; vol. 5 of the new edition of *Allen's Commercial Organic Analysis*. This volume has been rewritten under the editorship of Mr. W. A. Davis, B.Sc., and Mr. S. S. Sadtler, S.B.

Those who look forward with pleasure to the quarterly appearance of the *Old-Lore Miscellany of Orkney, Shetland, Caithness, and Sutherland*, will not be disappointed in the October number of that delightful magazine, whose table of contents is even more than usually attractive. A charming sketch of an old-world Orkney township, put into the mouth of an aged Orcadian, is contributed by Mr. John Spence, who guarantees the facts and even the very words themselves to be "genuine old lore" gathered from a member of his own family, whose advanced age made her a link between the ever-changing present and an almost forgotten past. Reproduced here, these scattered recollections form a fitting pendant to Mr. John Firth's description of rural life in Orkney a hundred years ago; whilst the Rev. D. Beaton's short account of "An Interesting Caithness Church Record" gives a vivid picture of the unsettled condition of a country parish in the extreme north-east of Scotland during the stormy days of the great Civil War. Some interesting details relating to Orkney mound-lore and the ancient marriage customs of Sutherland are to be found amongst the Notes and Queries; and an extract from the Journal of the late Dr. Edward Charlton contains a graphic description of plover shooting in the island of Yell during the early part of last century. The illustrations are limited to an excellent reproduction of Raeburn's beautiful portrait of Lady Janet Traill, which forms the frontispiece of the present number.

Every one has heard of the exquisite stuffs, woven out of the brilliantly-coloured plumage of tropical birds, which formed some of the most precious of the trophies carried off by the Spanish conquerors of Mexico; but few, perhaps, are aware that the ancient Aztecs were singularly successful bird-fanciers, and that the manufacture of these stuffs was carried on in connexion with a magnificent aviary belonging to the Mexican sovereigns, which formed part of a large menagerie attached to the royal palace at Mexico. Bernal Diaz, the Castilian, one of Cortez's companions in arms, has left an amusing description of the "Bird House," as the entire menagerie was called, in his *True History of the Conquest of New Spain*, and this account forms the subject of a most interesting article by M. Pierre-Amédée Pichot, which appeared in the August number of *L'Hygiène*. According to the Spanish chronicler, the Bird House contained specimens of almost every native bird, from the golden eagle to the humming-bird, all, as far as possible, living and breeding in their natural surroundings, and carefully tended by numerous keepers. Amongst the duties of the latter was the removal of the plumage of each bird at the commencement of the moulting season, the feathers being sent into the adjoining workshops to be converted into the wonderful fabrics which afterwards served as robes of state for the members of the royal family, or as tapestries for the adornment of the temple and palace walls. The Bird House, however, was not tenanted by feathered songsters alone. Close to the aviary stood a temple containing, in addition to the usual idols, a large collection of jaguars, pumas, and other wild beasts, together with a number of snakes; and we are assured by Diaz that a large portion of the diet of these animals consisted of the mutilated bodies of human sacrifices, varied, on one occasion at least, with that of Spanish soldiers fallen on the field of battle. This early specimen of a zoological garden vanished with the rest of the old Mexican civilization, being burned to the ground during the sack of Montezuma's palace; but the secret of the feather-stuffs survives to this day, if one may believe the historian Bustamente, at Patzquaro, where they are still to be procured. An article of equal interest, though of very different purport to the foregoing, has been contributed to the August number of *L'Hygiène*, by M. L. Mirman, who writes on "The Protection of the Public against Cholera"; whilst M. Henri Meurisse's short account of the history and manufacture of "Beer and Cider" contains much useful information concerning the relative nutritive values of these favourite beverages; and M. Emile Gautier has given some sound advice as to the best way of ridding a house of ants.

An excellent little book entitled *The Evolution of Urine Analysis: An Historical Sketch of the Clinical Examination of Urine*, was issued by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome and Co., on the occasion of the Birmingham meeting. In a "Foreword" Mr. Henry S. Wellcome states that for many years he has been engaged in researches on the early methods employed in the healing art, both among civilized and the uncivilized peoples; and he has had in his mind for some time past the organization of an exhibition illustrating the history of medicine, chemistry, pharmacy, and the allied sciences. It is intended that this project shall take concrete shape at the same time as the International Medical Congress to be held in London in 1913. The booklet on the evolution of urine analysis, which is profusely illustrated with reproductions from pictures in mediaeval illuminated manuscripts and old woodcuts and pictures, gives proof of wide research, and contains within a small compass a mass of interesting information. We venture to call attention to some trivial errors. In the frontispiece, a reproduction from a MS. of the fifteenth century, the title is given as "SS. Cosmos and Damian"; the more usual form of the first of these names is "Cosmas"; as such it appears in the list of saints in the Canon of the Mass. St. Cosmas gave his name to the famous surgical College of Saint Côme in Paris. Again, in the chapter on Uroscopy in the Middle Ages, mention is made of the "Salernan physicians"; "Salernitan" is the usual form, as we see in the *mulieres Salernitanæ*, the medical women of Salerno, so often quoted by mediaeval writers. "De urinus" on p. 21, "Supremio Regio" at p. 47, "La femme hydroplique (p. 69), are obvious misprints. The great name of "Scaliger" (p. 55) is endowed with a superfluous letter. "André Vesale"

(p. 67) is a curious rendering of the illustrious name of Vesalius, who was not a Frenchman. The book whets the appetite of the antiquarian for the treasures which will be displayed at the Medical Historical Exhibition.

We are so much accustomed to believe that the science of child-rearing is essentially a modern development, and that those who preceded us were almost completely ignorant of its most elementary laws, that it is rather startling to find that, however neglected it may have been during the Dark Ages, the physicians of the older civilizations were fully aware of the importance of this branch of knowledge, and devoted much time and attention to the instruction of their female patients in the art of bringing up their babies. That their views, moreover, were in general more advanced than we are apt to imagine may be gathered from the writings of Soranus of Ephesus, who practised in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Trajan, and whose maxims on the proper treatment of young children form the subject of an interesting article by Dr. Charles Séguin which appeared in *Le Progrès Médical* for September 16th. Unfortunately, the greater part of the works of this ancient medical authority have been lost, but the fragments which still remain suffice to prove that, with regard to nursery hygiene at any rate, he must have been an extremely sensible and level-headed practitioner. To modern ears many of his precepts sound strangely familiar, particularly those which relate to the treatment of the newborn baby and to the frequent use of the bath. Every baby, he says, should be washed twice daily from birth, at first in hot and later on in varying degrees of tepid water, until he is able to endure cold baths, which will render him less liable to chills when exposed to the open air. For the first six months his food should consist solely of milk (and here it may be remarked that Soranus was a firm believer in the value of the mother's milk for infants), but that period once passed his diet should be modified with such soft substances as the crumb of bread or flour dissolved in water or wine and honey. Later soup and new-laid eggs may be added to the daily bill of fare, together with bread soaked in wine and water; and if the child complains of thirst a small quantity of wine and water should be administered after meals. At the age of 18 months or 2 years his dietary should undergo another change, the quantity of milk being diminished and that of solid food increased. On no account, however, should the child's stomach be burdened with farinaceous foods at too early an age, a warning which was apparently only too much needed at a time when Roman nurses were accustomed to nourish their charges on such fare immediately they had passed the fortieth day from birth. It is possible that this pernicious practice, combined with the constant use of alcohol, may have been the cause of the prevalence of rickets amongst Roman children, an evil which is ascribed by Soranus to the ignorance of nurses and mothers alike. He urges them to keep children from walking too soon if they wish to save them from the deformities and malformations which at that period were terribly common in every class of society; but his wisdom stops short at this point, and throughout the whole of his writings there is no evidence that he recognized the imperative necessity for the feeding of children at certain fixed hours. On the contrary, the Roman baby seems to have had an indefinite number of meals a day, taken according to his (or more probably his nurse's) own sweet will and fancy, and consisting for the most part of food which placed far too great a strain upon his digestive faculties. It is therefore hardly surprising that there were many unsightly objects to be seen in the streets of Rome, and that the flowing toga of her citizens often concealed beneath its ample folds a pair of bandy legs or other evidences of a neglected childhood.

We all know how little patients are to be trusted in their accounts of what their doctors say about their complaints and their treatment. No wise practitioner therefore pays much heed to what may be said by a patient of his predecessors in charge of a case. An amusing collection might be made of mistakes made by patients in such matters. A very funny one (which we find in Grant Duff's *Diary*) is that made by an American lady in Paris, who is reported to have said: "Mon médecin m'a ordonné de suivre un régiment!"