

If general practitioners will try for themselves the saluferoform treatment of the diseases usually included under the loose title of chronic otorrhoea I think the cases that require more drastic methods will be few indeed.—I am, etc.,
Coventry, March 18th. F. FAULDER WHITE, F.R.C.S.

OBITUARY.

SURGEON-GENERAL JOHN HENDLEY, C.B.

WE regret to have to announce the death of Surgeon-General John Hendley, C.B., which took place at his house, The Croft, Wallingford, Berkshire, on March 17th. Surgeon-General Hendley, who was 68 years of age, was suddenly taken ill on the morning of the 16th, while he was reading family prayers. He had paroxysms of pain in the chest and throat. These continued with intervals of remission, during which he appeared to be quite himself, and without any anxiety as to his condition till the afternoon of the 17th, when, while in the act of raising himself up in bed, he fell forward dead.

Surgeon-General Hendley was born in 1827, and became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries in 1848. In 1851 he was appointed an assistant-surgeon in the army, and saw much active service. In 1855 he was wounded in two places in an engagement between the British troops and the Mohamedans of Corubo in the Gambia region of West Africa. Later in the same year he served with the combined British and French forces when the town of Sabajee was destroyed. He also served in the Indian North-West Frontier war in 1863, receiving a medal with clasp at the end of the campaign.

The record of his successive promotions will be found in another column. He was Principal Medical Officer with the Western Afghanistan Field Force in the Afghan war of 1878-79, his services being rewarded with the Companionship of the Bath and a medal. In 1884 he became Surgeon-General, and from that year he was Principal Medical Officer at Aldershot till 1887, when he was placed on the retired list.

Surgeon-General Hendley's loss will be greatly felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was one of the few men of the Army Medical Department who, having attained the highest rank, had the energy and public spirit to uphold against all opposition whatever he believed to be best for the service in general and for his own department in particular.

Those who knew him well loved him for his kindliness of disposition and his straightforward manliness, while those who were less intimate with him felt strongly drawn to him by the force of his personal magnetism. There can be no more striking proof of the esteem and affection in which he was universally held than the extraordinary regret for his death shown by all classes of people in the town of Wallingford, where he had been a resident for barely a year. A man strong and active both in mind and in body, he was mercifully spared the gradual decay of a lingering illness, which to one of his temperament would have been exceptionally distressing.

T. J. TSCHUDNOWSKY, M.D.,

Professor, St. Petersburg Military Medical Academy.

THE medical profession of Russia has suffered a heavy loss by the death of Dr. Tschudnowsky, Professor of General Therapeutics and Diagnosis in the St. Petersburg Military Medical Academy, at the age of 53. He had been in failing health for some time, and he was granted leave of absence on this account. He died suddenly in Vienna of a heart affection, the sequel of chronic nephritis. From the beginning of his professional career he had given special attention to the study of therapeutics and the investigation of internal diseases, and his contributions to medical literature in these fields were numerous and important.

His first work, entitled *Contributions to the Clinical Study of the Effect of Venesection* (St. Petersburg, 1869), brought him under the notice of the late Professor Botkin, whose clinical assistant he subsequently became. In 1872 he became Ordinator in Botkin's clinic, and in 1876 he succeeded to the

Assistant Professorship of General Therapeutics and Medicine in the St. Petersburg Military Medical Academy.

In 1884 he became Extraordinary, and three years later Ordinary Professor. For some time, and at different periods, he delivered lectures on medicine at the Medical School for Women, and he has bequeathed his library, containing nearly 4,000 volumes, to the Female Medical Institute in St. Petersburg. His widow, knowing the wish of her husband, has intimated her intention of leaving £3,500 to be invested for the benefit of the poorer students of the Military Medical Academy.

Tschudnowsky took much interest in sanitary work, and at the time of typhoid epidemics in St. Petersburg it was through his influence that a special hospital for typhoid patients was established, and on his suggestion being carried out he improved on it by having wards set apart for other infectious diseases.

Tschudnowsky was a man of great intellectual power, and had the highest reputation for his scientific knowledge and professional skill. He was also a most amiable and kind-hearted man, and very popular both with his colleagues and with patients.

WE regret to announce that Dr. LAUGHTON MCFARLANE, Professor of Surgery in the University of Toronto, died on February 29th of blood poisoning, contracted while he was amputating the toes of a patient in the General Hospital of that city. Professor McFarlane was 54 years of age.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently passed away are Dr. John Howard Ripley, some time Clinical Professor of Diseases of Children in the Medical Department of the University of the City of New York, and afterwards in the Polyclinic of the same city, aged 59; Dr. D. Van Haren Noman, Professor of Dermatology in the University of Amsterdam; Dr. E. Giovanardi, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Modena; Dr. Max Hubrich, director of the Lunatic Asylum of Werneck in Bavaria, where he succeeded Dr. Gudden, whose attendance on King Ludwig had so tragic an ending for himself, aged 59; Dr. Paschalis Ritter von Ferro, Prosecutor to the Kaiserin Elizabeth Hospital, Vienna, aged 44; and Dr. Gustav Hermann Cantzler, for fifty-six years director of the Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg, one of the pioneers of percussion and auscultation in Russia and a leading clinician, aged 90.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

KITSON v. PLAYFAIR AND WIFE.

[SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL."]

THIS was an action brought by Mrs. Arthur Kitson against Dr. William S. Playfair and his wife for libel and slander. The action was commenced on March 20th, before Mr. Justice Hawkins and a special jury. Mr. Lawson Walton, Q.C., and Mr. Tindal Atkinson appeared for the plaintiff; Sir F. Lockwood, Q.C., and Mr. C. W. Mathews for the defendants; and Mr. Hugh Fraser and Mr. McDougal watched the case on behalf of other parties interested.

Mr. Lawson Walton, in opening the case, said it was an action brought by a married lady who sought to escape from a charge reflecting very gravely upon her honour. The plaintiff complained that after she had placed herself in the professional care of Dr. Playfair, he had broken the solemn seal of professional confidence by betraying to his wife knowledge which he had acquired in the course of his professional duties. Plaintiff complained not only of the communication of inferences which Dr. Playfair wrongly drew from her symptoms, but she complained that he communicated that information without affording her an opportunity of explanation notwithstanding her urgent entreaties. There was no suggestion that the lady had been guilty of adultery. That plea had not been set up by the defendants, but they had pleaded that the communications complained of were privileged. The short answer to that defence was that no communication made by a medical man in breach of the solemn obligations of confidence as between himself and his patient could be privileged. Mrs. Kitson, the plaintiff, was an Australian lady, the wife of Mr. Arthur Kitson, who was a brother of Sir James Kitson and Mrs. Playfair. Dr. Playfair was a well-known obstetric physician practising in the West End of London. Mr. Arthur Kitson acted in Australia as agent for his father, a well-known iron founder, and while in Australia married the plaintiff. At that period Mr. Arthur Kitson's life was undoubtedly