

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO
CORRESPONDENTS.

QUERIES.

JANUS would be glad of information as to the action, or failure of action, of apomorphine in cases of alcoholic poisoning.

Y. asks for information as to the best method for getting rid of permanently dilated and quite superficial capillaries in the cheeks of a young lady. Solution of sodium ethylate and the acid nitrate of mercury have been suggested. Is it safe to use these undiluted?

TRAVELLER writes: I should be much obliged if any member who has visited Lisbon, Busaco, and Cintra will give me some information as to the climate, temperature, and the best time of the year to visit these places. Would it be warm enough in April or May?

ALSERSTRASSE asks for hints as to the diagnosis and treatment of the following case: X., a gentleman between 70 and 80 years of age, in good general health and of active habits, with neither heart disease, aneurysm nor diabetes, has lately been troubled, especially in the evenings, with fits of yawning—or rather attempts at yawning, as the yawn seems to be arrested at the end of a long inspiration. These abortive yawns cause him great distress, and frequently he is unable to get sleep for hours at night owing to the attacks. Ordinary remedies, such as pot. brom., stomachics of various kinds, are of no service.

THE TEACHING OF SPEECHLESS CHILDREN.

W. L. W. asks for the titles of treatises on the instruction of infants and young children in whom, although there is no apparent malformation of hard or soft palate, there is no inclination to, nor power of, speech.

** We have referred this question to Dr. Shuttleworth, who has replied as follows:

"I do not know of any book quite meeting 'W. L. W.'s requirements. All depends upon the cause of the speechlessness, for example, deafness, want of intelligence, or some aphasic brain condition. 'W. L. W.' might get some hints from Van Praagh's *Lessons for Deaf and Dumb Children* (Tribner), or Elliott's *Articulation and Lip-Reading*, to be had from the Secretary of the Society for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, 93, Cannon Street, E.C.; but after all, a tactful teacher, rather than a treatise, is what is wanted. For myself, I think that the old nursery rhymes set to catchy airs (such as are found in Elliott's *National Nursery Rhymes* (Novello, Ewer, and Co.) often form the best speaking lessons for backward infants."

ANSWERS.

ENQUIRER.—Our correspondent must write to the Commanding Officer of the R.N. Volunteer Reserve Division to which he wishes to belong, who will give him all the necessary information.

TREATMENT OF COCCYDYNIA.

DR. J. STENSON HOOKER (London) writes: I would suggest that "M.D.'s" patient should be treated with high-frequency current for his coccydynia. I have obtained good results in somewhat similar cases.

THE PAROXYSMAL COUGH OF INFLUENZA.

DR. PERCY B. SPURGIN (Wimbledon) writes in reply to "Rusticus": In such cases I have found tonic treatment of the very greatest use. I generally prescribe a mixture as follows for an adult: R Liq. strychninae miv. acid. nitro-muriatic dil. mx, tr. aurantii et tr. belladonnae aa mv, aq. ad ʒj. Misc. Ft. mist. S. ʒj ʒtis horis.

KOUMISS AND KEPHIR.

R. N.—True koumiss can only be prepared with mare's milk, which lends itself particularly well to vinous and lactic fermentation owing to its low ratio of fats and casein and the high proportion of sugar. The corresponding preparation from cow's milk, however, more properly known as kephir, seems to have identical physiological properties, and is perhaps even more nourishing. It may be prepared as follows: Boil fresh milk, and when nearly cold put it into quart bottles, leaving plenty of room for shaking. Add ½ oz. of crushed lump sugar and 20 gr. of Vienna yeast. Cork the bottles with new corks, tie them down carefully, and keep the bottles in a horizontal position in a cool cupboard. Shake them well at least twice daily. As a rule fermentation will proceed sufficiently rapidly for the koumiss to be ready to drink about the sixth day, the time required being longer in cold weather and shorter in hot. It can be made thinner by using skim milk instead of whole milk, and when thus made approximates, perhaps, more nearly to koumiss.

TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS DURING PREGNANCY.

RADIUM.—In the case of a married woman suffering from syphilis and three months pregnant it would not be justifiable to produce abortion; the patient should be treated with mercury throughout the pregnancy. A convenient form of administration is Hutchinson's pill, of which Mr. Hutchinson writes in his work on *Syphilis* as follows: "Hydrargyrum cum creta is perhaps the most constant and least variable of all preparations. It may be made into pills of 1 gr., in combination with 1 gr. of Dover's powder if necessary, and of these the patient may take one every six, four, three, or even two hours, according to circumstances. Usually one pill four times a day will suffice to clear away a chancre or a secondary eruption as rapidly and completely as can be wished. In some cases it may be more convenient to double the dose than to increase the frequency of administration, but the latter, if the patient is willing, is the better plan."

NOTES, LETTERS, Etc.

AUTOMOBILES FOR MEDICAL MEN.

We have received a long letter from "Dissatisfied" on this subject. The following summary contains the main points:

He says that there seems to be a conspiracy amongst medical men to give a rose-coloured view of their experiences with automobiles. As an example he mentions a letter which appeared recently in the *Lancet*, the writer of which, estimating his running expenditure with a

3½ h.p. car at £130 a year, stated that he had had only one puncture since January, 1901, and had been stopped only six times during the same period from small troubles on the road.

This experience "Dissatisfied" thinks must be uniquely happy. It does not correspond with his own, either in respect of stoppages or expenses. His own car of the same size has cost him at least £130, although he includes nothing for stables or pneumatic tyres. A boy may be able to do all ordinary running repairs, but there are many things which require a skilled mechanic. In respect of such repairs the person to be avoided, he thinks, is the "sole agent," and a sharp eye should be kept on the item of "time employed." Often it is difficult to check this, because there necessarily may be little to show for the work done, and it is impossible to say that a man is wasting his time when he spends it looking for an imaginary waste of current. He does not agree with the writer whom he criticizes that the use of bicycle wheels with solid tyres is satisfactory, as the latter are always getting loose, and the process of replacing them sooner or later necessitates rebuilding the wheel at an expense of £5 or £6.

The *Lancet* correspondent has also allowed nothing for the cost of carriage hire when his car has been incapacitated, which, in "Dissatisfied's" case has been a serious item. It is true that "Dissatisfied" uses a belt, and that he may be told that this is out of date. But this is itself a "motor" disadvantage, since with a horse and trap a man is not expected to renew the outfit every two or three years in order to keep up to date. He does not agree, also, that it is possible, at night, at any rate, to be out on the road in three minutes. The discrepancy, moreover, between declared and actual horse power, as ascertained at the recent reliability trials, is of importance, and explains the loss of speed which he himself has experienced when the roads have been heavy. Using solid tyres he has found that in bad weather he can run away from high powered cars with pneumatic tyres, because the latter skid; and although makers as a rule are opposed to them, he does not think automobiles will prove an ideal vehicle for medical men until cars can be made to run on solid tyres. He would like to hear the experiences of others who have tried the latter on any car.

MESSRS. BURGONEY, BURBIDGES AND CO. (16, Coleman Street, London, E.C.) desire to state that they are not the Messrs. Burgoyne and Co. against whom proceedings were taken recently under the Merchandise Marks Act in respect of adulterated soda crystals.

LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, Etc., have been received from:

A Alserstrasse; A. T.; Auxiliary; Dr. F. H. Alderson, Bournemouth. B Mr. G. H. Broadbent, Manchester; Mr. W. F. Brook, Swansea; Mr. O. V. Brandford, London; Dr. J. W. Byers, Belfast; British Drugists Limited, Manager of, London; Dr. O. Suttar, London; Mr. E. Berry, Leyland; Mr. S. Bibby, Lancaster; Mr. O. Bowen, Liverpool; Mr. A. B. Barker, London; Mr. F. Broadbent, Newark; Mr. L. A. Bidwell, London; Dr. F. Briscoe, Alton; Dr. F. Bushnell, Plymouth. C Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, London; Dr. J. M. Clarke, Clifton; Colonel; Miss E. N. Cohen, M.B., Rangoon; Dr. J. E. Combs, Newport, Mon; Dr. W. A. Gaskie, Glasgow; Mr. J. M. Copen, Ascot; Dr. E. H. Cook, Enfield; Dr. M. J. F. Dodd, Oxford; Dr. M. G. W. E. Daniel, Edinburgh; Miss M. P. Durnford, London; Dr. J. G. Duncan, London. E Hon. Mrs. Elliot, London; Dr. W. H. Evans, Cardiff; Dr. A. E. Emlay, Erse; F. H. Edgeworth, M.B., Clifton; Dr. J. K. Fowler, London; E. E. Fothergill, M.B., London; Dr. P. O. Frause, Bad Nauheim; Mrs. B. Fenwick, London; Mr. P. T. Fagge, Llandfaifechan; Mr. F. Gould, London; Dr. H. Godfrey, M.B., London; Dr. S. Ges, London. H H. S. Hughes, M.B., Southampton; H.; Mr. A. J. Hobbs, London; Mr. A. Hope, London; Mr. C. H. Hibbert, Marple Bridge; Dr. T. W. Hime, Bradford; Dr. J. Hight, Workington; W. W. H.; Hygiene; Mr. W. W. Horndy, London; Dr. J. W. Hamill, Manchester; J. A. B. Hammond, M.B., Shanklin; Dr. J. P. Henry, London; Dr. J. Haddon, Hawick; Dr. J. T. B. Hayes, Bathkeale; House-Surgeon; Dr. E. B. Hulbert, London; M. Henry, M.B., Belfast; J. Miss A. R. Joseph, London; Mr. F. P. Joseelyne, Redditch; Mr. E. Jones, Eaglehawk, Queensland. K Messrs. Kemp and Co., Bombay; Dr. E. D. Kirby, Birmingham. L Dr. T. G. Lyon, London; Mr. W. Latham, Ashton-in-Makerfield; Mr. F. O. Larkin, Liverpool; Laryngological Society, Secretary of, London; Mr. C. B. Lockwood, London; Liverpool Medical Institution, Secretary of, Liverpool; Dr. A. G. Levy, London. M Dr. E. J. McWeeney, Dublin; M. D.; Mr. P. Mitchell, London; Dr. C. M. Moulton, London; Mr. W. J. Morton, London; E. G. A. Moynihan, M.B., Leeds; M.R.C.S.; Mr. W. L. Muir, Glasgow; Midland Medical Society, Secretary of, Birmingham; W. J. McCardie, M.B., Birmingham; A. A. McNab, M.B., Leeds; E. M. Murray, M.B., Gullane; Dr. A. W. Mackintosh, Aberdeen; Dr. F. O. Moore, Manchester. N Dr. J. T. O. Nash, Southend-on-Sea. O Dr. J. Oliver, London; Dr. D. C. L. Owen, Birmingham; Dr. E. H. L. Oliphant, Glasgow. P Mr. E. J. Parry, London; Dr. T. H. S. Pullin, Sidmouth; Mr. G. A. Phillips, Walsall; Mr. S. Paget, London; E. N. Bridmore, M.B., Beckenham; Miss K. Pearce, London. R Mr. F. C. Rogers, Bevedere; T. Robinson, M.B., Clonakilty; Dr. M. Randall, London; Sir J. B. Sanderson, Bart., Oxford; Mr. W. Stuart, London; S. Stephenson, M.B., London; Dr. J. D. Stanley, Birmingham; E. H. E. Stack, M.B., Bristol; Messrs. G. Street and Co., London; Mr. N. Smith, London; Dr. E. M. Simon, Birmingham; Dr. G. S. Taylor, Liverpool; Mr. E. B. Sleman, London; Dr. W. H. B. Stoddart, London; J. E. B. Snell, M.B., Nottingham; Dr. A. Sellers, Manchester; Dr. S. Sunderland, London. T Mr. C. W. Tates, London; Dr. T. H. Thomson, Cambeltown. U Uncrushed Country Doctor. W West London Medical and Chirurgical Society, Secretary of, London; Dr. T. Outterston Wood, London; Workhouse Medical Officer; J. F. L. Whittingdale, Sherborne; Dr. J. P. Weber, London; Mr. C. Walker, London; Dr. A. J. Wallace, Liverpool; W. B. C.; Mr. W. Whitehouse, London; F. Wyatt-Smith, M.B., Woking; Dr. F. Willcocks, London; A. Westlake, M.B., Great Grimsby; W. D. O.

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