

**PORTSMOUTH: PORTSEA AND GOSPOET HOSPITAL.**—Assistant House-Surgeon. Honorarium of £50 per annum, with board, etc. Applications to the Secretary by August 22nd.

**BOSS UNION.**—(1) Medical Officer for the Third District. Salary, £80 per annum. (2) Public Vaccinator for the Second and Third Districts. Applications to the Clerk to the Guardians by August 20th.

**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.**—(1) Physician for Diseases of Women, with charge of in-patients. (2) Assistant Physician for Diseases of Women, with charge of out-patients. Applications to the Secretary by October 11th.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, E.C.**—Lecturer on General Anatomy and Physiology in the Medical School. Applications to the Clerk by September 8th.

**SHEFFIELD: WEST RIDING ASYLUM, WADSLEY.**—Fifth Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £140 per annum, increasing £10 annually to £160, with board, etc. Applications to Medical Superintendent by August 27th.

**SOUTHPORT INFIRMARY.**—Resident Junior House and Visiting Surgeon, unmarried. Appointment for six months, but renewable. Honorarium at the rate of £81 per annum, with residence, board, and washing. Applications to the Secretary, 24, King Street, Southport.

**STAFFORD: STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY.**—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the House-Surgeon.

**STOCKPORT INFIRMARY.**—Junior Assistant House-Surgeon. Appointment for six months. Salary at the rate of £40 per annum, with board, washing, and residence. Applications to the Secretary.

**THREE COUNTIES ASYLUM, Arlsey, near Hitchin.**—Second Assistant Medical Officer (male), unmarried and under 30 years of age. Applications to Dr. Ernest de Lisle at the Asylum by August 30th.

**TIVERTON INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY.**—House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £80 per annum, with board, apartments, etc. Applications to the Honorary Secretary, by September 1st.

**WEST BROMWICH DISTRICT HOSPITAL.**—Resident Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and attendance. Applications to the Honorary Secretary.

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.**—Medical Officer to Dispensary. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the Honorary Secretary by August 26th.

**WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL.**—(1) Assistant House Surgeon. (2) Assistant House Physician. Appointment for six months, with honorarium at the rate of £75 per annum, and board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the Secretary by August 22nd.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

**ETLES, W. J. M., M.D.Aberd.**, appointed Medical Officer of Health for No. 11 District of the London County Council, *vice* J. S. E. Cotman, M.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., deceased.

**FISHER, Charles, M.B., B.S.Dur., M.R.C.S., L.R.O.P.**, appointed Deputy Poor-law Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Albury District of the Guildford Union.

**HARDING, Norman E., M.B., Ch.B. Edin.**, appointed Second House Surgeon to the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital.

**HEAP, E. F. G. T., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Lond.**, appointed District Medical Officer of the Grimsby Union.

**HIME, E. M., M.B., Ch.B. Viet.**, appointed District and Workhouse Medical Officer of the Ayrshire Union.

**HOOK, John, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond.**, appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Hartington District of the Ashbourne Union.

**LAPAGE, C. P., M.B., Ch.B.**, appointed House-Surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

**LEIGHTON, Gerald, M.D.**, appointed Interim Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh.

**MCWALTER, W., M.B.**, appointed Medical Officer to His Majesty's Prison, Peterhead.

**MERGES, T. Hugh E., M.R.C.S., L.R.O.P.**, appointed Public Vaccinator of the Slough District of the Eton Union, *vice* J. Brickwell, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

**MONRO-HOME, G. H., M.D. Edin.**, appointed Honorary Anaesthetist to the David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool.

**NICHOLSON, E., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.**, appointed Medical Officer of Health for the Fenny Stratford Urban District Council.

**PATON, Leslie, B.A., M.B., B.C. Camb., F.R.C.S. Eng.**, appointed Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

**SWEENEY, W. J., M.B., B.S., R.U.I.**, appointed Deputy Medical Officer of the Workhouse and the Thornbury District of the Thornbury Union, *vice* Alfred Grace, resigned.

**THOMAS, Abraham, M.B., B.S. Lond.**, reappointed Medical Officer of Health to the Aberystwith Urban District Council.

**VEBLEY, E. C., M.B., Ch.B. Edin., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.Sc.**, appointed House-Physician to the General Hospital, Birmingham.

**WARBACK, J. S., M.A., M.D. Aberd.**, appointed Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Tottenham.

**WYNE, Walter, M.B., C.M. Edin.**, reappointed Medical Officer of Health to the Rye Corporation.

**YOUNG, E., M.B., C.M. Aberd.**, appointed District and Workhouse Medical Officer of the Kochford Union.

### DIARY FOR NEXT WEEK.

#### POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

West London Hospital, Hammermith Road, W.—Monday, 9.30 p.m.: Demonstration in Medical Wards. Tuesday, 5 p.m.: Application of Plaster-of-Paris Splints. Wednesday, 5 p.m.: Aphasia. Thursday, 4.30 p.m.: Demonstration in the Medical Wards. Friday, 4.30 p.m.: Skin Cases.

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 3s. 6d., which sum should be forwarded in post-office orders or stamps with the notice not later than Wednesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

#### BIRTHS.

**JOHNSON.**—At Blackpool, on August 11th, Edith B. Johnson, M.B., B.Ch. (née Joel), wife of J. Johnson, L.F.P.S., L.R.C.P., of a son.

**LE GEYT.**—On August 10th, at 56, David Place, the wife of Edward Le Geyt, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.O.P. Lond., of a son.

**LUCKHAM.**—On August 2nd, at 47, Winchester Street, Salisbury, the wife of L. S. Luckham, M.R.C.S., of a daughter.

#### DEATHS.

**DUNCAN.**—On July 28th, at Menzies, Western Australia, of pneumonia, Samuel Vere Duncan, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., second son of the late Professor P. Martin Duncan, F.R.S., of King's College, London, aged 38.

**MORGAN.**—August 7th, at North Street, Langport, John Morgan, F.R.C.S. Eng., in his 63rd year.

**NEAL.**—On August 10th, at his residence, St. Cross, Sandown, Isle of Wight, James Neal, M.D., aged 66 years.

## LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 1, Agar Street, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 429, Strand, W.C., London.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone, unless the contrary be stated.

ATV. JOES desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Manager, 429, Strand, W.C., on receipt of proof.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look at the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

MANUSCRIPTS FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THIS JOURNAL CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RETURNED.

IN order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL, and not at his private house.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, London*. The telegraphic address of the MANAGER of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, London*.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

### QUERIES.

W. L. would feel grateful for advice as to a suitable place for a patient suffering from locomotor ataxy to spend the winter in. The patient is a man of moderate means, and could not afford any of the very expensive resorts. He is only very slightly ataxic.

IGNORAMUS writes: Would any one who has any experience of brougham-hansoms kindly let me have the benefit of it? Their suitability for a hilly country is one point on which I should like information. Who are considered the best makers?

MR. LUDFORD COOPER (19, Victoria Street, Rochester) would be much obliged if any member of the Association would send him the address of any institution which would admit a patient for the Weir-Mitchell treatment who is only able to pay £1 a week.

DR. W. G. DUNWOODY (St. Mary's, Ely, Cambs.) would be much obliged if any readers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL who have a satisfactory two-wheeled covered carriage (not a hansom) would communicate with him, giving particulars. Replies by post would be much appreciated, as time is limited.

LINGUA writes: Will any member who has had experience of cases of stammering in children kindly give some hints as to the management of a boy 5½ years old, who has within the last twelve months developed a painful hesitation in speaking? The boy is a bright, intelligent child, in perfect health, and who spoke with ease and fluency up to a year ago, when he began gradually to have periodical fits of difficulty in articulating some words; the difficulty has gradually increased, until at the present time he makes grotesque grimaces, puffs out his cheeks, etc., and only succeeds in getting almost any word articulated after prolonged effort. Any suggestion as to treatment will be gratefully received and acted upon. There is no defect in the organs of speech.

#### M. D. DEGREE FOR PRACTITIONERS.

H. R. (Roscrea) writes to ask what British Universities confer the M.D. degree on practitioners of fifteen years' standing, what would be the cost in time and money of obtaining such a degree, and if a reasonably well-read man would be fairly certain of obtaining it.

\*.\* As far as we are aware at the present time the only British university that confers the M.D. degree on practitioners of fifteen years' standing is the University of Durham. It is impossible to answer the question in regard to cost, as it would vary with the individual. The third query may be answered in the affirmative.

#### THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE LIQUORS IN TANNING.

M.O.H. writes: There are three refuse liquors in the process of tanning, two of which are innocuous—the lime liquor in which the skins are soaked for the purpose of removing the hair, and the exhausted tan liquor. The other, which is not harmless, is that known as the "bate liquor," in which the skins are soaked together with fowls' dung to remove blood and decomposing animal matter. The question on which information is desired is, What is the best method of disposing of this offensive liquid? As medical officer of a small urban district I am called upon to deal with the nuisance arising from the discharge of these liquids into a small open "beck." Three courses are possible: To discharge into the common sewer, to deodorize, to carry by special pipes to a point beyond the neighbourhood of dwellings before discharging into the stream. To the first of these the objection is that the smell would still be offensive and injurious through the gratings and ventilators of the sewer, and that the lime liquor might choke the sewer by its deposit. To the second the objection would be the cost and the difficulty of ensuring that it was efficiently done. To the third I know of no objection but the cost. What I should like to know from some readers is the way in which this difficulty is dealt with in other districts.

### ANSWERS.

H. S. has omitted to enclose his card.

## LETTERS, NOTES, Etc

## POTASSIUM NITRATE AND NITRITE IN CHRONIC INCREASE OF ARTERIAL TENSION.

WRITING in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 9th, Dr. John MacRury called attention to the occurrences of faintness, cyanosis, and other unpleasant symptoms in a patient immediately after taking the following prescription, said in the EPITOME of June 28th, p. 104, to be recommended by Sir Lauder Brunton for cases of arterial decay with hard pulse: R. Potass. bicarb. gr. xxvii; potass. nitrici, gr. xviii; sodii nitrosi, gr. lvi. To be taken in the morning, dissolved in a tumblerful of water. We have communicated on the subject with Sir Lauder Brunton, who writes: "There is evidently a mistake somewhere in the prescription which I have recommended for high-tension pulse. The dose of nitrite of soda that I recommended was  $\frac{3}{4}$  gr. and not  $\frac{4}{3}$  gr., and it is the excessive dose of the nitrite that has produced the disagreeable consequences mentioned by your correspondent. I have not got a copy of the *Deut. med. Woch.*, so that I cannot say whether the printers' error has occurred in it or in the abstract in the JOURNAL. I had not seen the abstract, or I should have drawn attention to the mistake in dose."

## OIL OF ABSINTHE AS A SUPPOSED ABORTIFACIENT.

AN inquest was recently held on the wife of a farm labourer living near Runcorn, who, according to the report in the *Liverpool Courier*, died three-quarters of an hour after swallowing over 100 gr. of oil of absinthe, which, according to the evidence, she had obtained for the purpose of terminating pregnancy. She had obtained the drug from a firm of qualified chemists in Liverpool, from whose representative it was elicited at the inquest that absinthe was not a scheduled poison, that it was not regarded as a poison, and that in this instance the dose—one or two drops—was not indicated on the bottle. From the evidence of a neighbour it appeared that the drug came by the evening post, that the deceased took it almost immediately, and that a few minutes later she was found lying speechless in the yard. The coroner expressed the opinion that it was very reprehensible for such a drug to be supplied without a direction as to the dose, and to an illiterate person as in the present case. The jury returned a verdict that death was caused through deceased taking an overdose of oil of absinthe to cause abortion, and recommended that such a dangerous drug should be scheduled as a poison. They also stated that they were satisfied it was taken by mistake; that the woman did not know the quantity. In the course of the inquiry Dr. Carter Bell, Analyst to the County of Chester, said that he believed oil of absinthe was frequently used as an abortive; that it was one of those substances believed by the laity, and probably erroneously, to have the power of ending pregnancy seems indeed to be fairly certain. References to the action of the drug, which have been kindly supplied by Dr. R. H. Beardsley, will be found in reply to "W. H. C.'s" query in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August and p. 375, in *Stellé's National Dispensatory* (J. and A. Churchill, 1879), *Peruvia's Materia Medica*, (1840, part 2, p. 595), and *Culpepper's Herbal* (1658, p. 316).

## GONORRHOEAL SYNOVITIS IN AN INFANT SUFFERING FROM OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

DR. R. W. INNES SMITH (Sheffield) has forwarded the following further note on the case reported by him in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of June 7th, 1902, p. 1401: The infant was a male. The affected knee recovered completely in about five weeks. No special treatment was adopted, the joint being simply bandaged. There was never any tendency to ankylosis, the swelling gradually disappearing. The inflammation affected the synovial membrane, causing effusion into the cavity of the knee-joint, and was therefore described as "gonorrhoeal synovitis," in contradistinction to "gonorrhoeal arthritis," in which the ligaments and structures around the joint are largely involved (Davies-Colley, *Guy's Hospital Reports*, vol. xli, p. 187).

## BREACH PRESENTATIONS AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

DR. COLLINGWOOD FENWICK (Clapham, S.W.) writes: The frequency with which breech presentation is attended by death of the fetus emboldens me to send you a report upon a small instrument I have invented and which I believe has been the means of saving the child in 5 cases of breech in which I have used it.

It consists of two parts, an indiarubber pear-shaped bag measuring  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. across, holding 2 ozs. of water. Into the mouth of this bag is screwed a long indiarubber tube 17 in. long. The tube is composed of one long piece measuring 13 in. and bifurcating at this point into two shorter tubes each measuring  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, the distance between the two tubes measure 1 in., and each tube measures  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. across.

The instrument is placed in position by means of a metal sound specially made to fit the bag. The two arms are introduced between the umbilical cord, and during a pain the squeeze on the bag dilates the arms which become larger than the cord lying between them and circulation in the fetus is unimpeded. The instrument was made for me by Messrs. Down Bros., of St. Thomas's Street, Borough, S.W.

## ANTISTREPTOCOCCUS SERUM IN PUERPERAL FEVER.

DR. J. RODGER WATSON (Peebles, N.B.) writes: Under the above title there appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for July 26th a memorandum of a case by Dr. Fry. This is only one of the many cases one has seen recorded in the JOURNAL during the last few years in which no information is given as to bacteriological diagnosis prior to the use of this serum. One of the most instructive papers I have read on this subject, and one which shows to advantage the great value of accurate cultural diagnosis, is that by Dr. Haultain (*Trans. Edin. Obstet. Soc.*, vol. xxii, 1897). He there describes three cases. The cervical discharge in one case revealed Loeffler's bacillus in nearly pure culture, and the

case yielded to antidiphtherial serum, being, indeed, a true case of intrauterine diphtheria. Another case showed a mixed growth of *B. coli* and streptococci and was fatal (a pure growth of *B. coli* was got from the blood before death). The third case was purely streptococcal, and the intrauterine douching here gave no improvement till combined with the antistreptococcus serum. Marmorek also showed that the effect of his serum was less in mixed infection, especially if *B. coli* was present. The empirical use of this serum in all febrile puerperal cases is to be deprecated, as it cannot lead to an accurate knowledge of its value, but only to a mass of conflicting evidence.

FLUSHING OPERATION WOUNDS WITH PERCHLORIDE OF MERCURY. MAJOR F. J. W. PORTER, S.A.C. (Pretoria), writes: With reference to the remarks on some cases of general surgery in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of June 21st, I should like to add my testimony to the great value of flushing operation wounds with strong solutions of perchloride of mercury prior to closing them by suture. In the early part of the late campaign I had to perform some large operations under very unfavourable conditions as regards cleanliness of instruments, patient's skin, etc. Before closing the wounds I thoroughly flushed them with a 1 in 1,000 solution of perchloride of mercury poured from a bottle. My results were so good that I have ever since continued this practice, even when operating in general hospitals. An amputation through the lower third of the thigh done in the open, another done in a Boer farmhouse, and the bone having to be sawn with a dirty carpenter's saw (owing to the capital case being refused to be cut) healed by first intention, although they had to be transported by wagon a distance of over fifty miles. A compound fracture of a proximal phalanx, joint laid open and extensor tendon cut, did perfectly well under the flushing treatment done in the field.

We would request correspondents who desire to ask questions in this column not to make use of such signatures as "A Member," "A Member B.M.A.," "Enquirer," and so on. By attention to this request much confusion would be avoided. Correspondents are asked to write upon one side of the paper only.

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

A. Messrs. Allen and Hanbury, London; E. L. Anderson, M.B., Liverpool; Mr. G. Adkins, Freshwater, Isle of Wight; Ans Quantum Satis. B Dr. F. Bushnell, Plymouth; Mr. J. E. B. Brown, London; Dr. A. T. Brand, Aberdeen; Brisbane Hospital, Secretary of Brisbane; Mr. L. A. Bidwell, London. C Mr. M. Collier, London; Dr. A. Croll, Birmingham; Dr. E. J. G. Calverley, C.M.G., Folkestone; Mr. J. Chestnut, Howden; China; Mr. L. Cooper, Rochester; Mr. A. H. Cheate, London; Messrs. J. Cleve and Son, Crediton. D Mr. W. F. Dearden, Manchester; Messrs. Down Brothers, London; Principal Dick, Liverpool; Mr. E. V. Dolbey, Nauwpoort; Dr. W. G. Dunwoody, Ely; J. S. Dick, M.B., Manchester; Mr. F. T. Daore, Upton. E Elwin; Mr. A. G. Evered, London; Edinburgh Graduate; Edinburghensis; Edinburgh M.D.; Dr. G. F. Elliott, Hull; O. Eichholz, M.B., London. F Mr. C. Frost, Manchester; C. Fraser, M.B., Dagenham. G Dr. A. H. Griffith, Appleby; G. P.; Mr. H. Gilford, Reading. H H. S.; Mr. F. A. Hirtzel, London; Dr. J. Hamilton, London; Mr. F. J. Hart, Much Wenlock; Dr. J. A. Hayward, Wimbleton; B. Howden, M.B., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. J. Holmes, Radcliffe. I Inquirer; Ignoramus. J Dr. R. Jones, Sandown, Isle of Wight; J. K. P. L. Dr. G. H. Lancashire, Manchester; London; Lingua. M Mr. J. F. Meyler, Dublin; Dr. J. Mackenzie, Burnley; Dr. R. W. Maraden, Manchester; Major, R.A.M.C.; M.O.H.; M.E.C.S., L.R.C.P. London; M.B., C.M.; Mr. J. J. de Z. Marshall, London; Mr. J. D. McFeely, Dublin; Mr. J. More, Kettering; Motorist. N Nimrod; Dr. P. Newell, Crowborough. O One of the Rank and File. P Messrs. Parke Davis and Co., London; Dr. E. Paramore, London. R R. D. P. S. W. M. Smith, M.B., Eastbourne; Dr. G. Schofield, Bloxham; Dr. A. Stewart, Manchester; Dr. A. Sheen, Cardiff; J. E. H. Sawyer, M.B., Birmingham; W. L. Spink, M.B., Jamestown, St. Helena; Dr. J. H. Swanton, London; Mr. G. S. R. Stritch, Dublin; Surgeon-General. T Dr. H. G. Turney, London; T. S. B. V. Mr. V. C. J. Vanderstraeten, Bellatua, Ceylon. W Mr. G. C. Wilkin, Blakesley; Dr. G. S. Woodhead, Cambridge; A. M. Ware, M.B., London; Weardale Senior; Mr. A. Whitfield, Burnham; W. L.; Dr. E. B. Wild, Manchester.

## BOOKS, Etc., RECEIVED.

Clinical Psychiatry. Adapted from the Aids to Dental Anatomy and Physiology. Sixth German Edition of Kraepelin's By A. S. Underwood, M.B., O.S., L.D.S. "Lehrbuch der Psychiatrie," by A. R. Second edition: Baillière, Tindall, and Defendorf, M.D. London and New Cox. 1902. 2s. 6d.  
York; Macmillan and Co. 1902. 15s. Ligaments: their Nature and Morphology. Handy Newspaper List, 1902. London: C. By J. Bland-Sutton. Third edition. and E. Aytton. 6d. London: H. K. Lewis. 1902. 4s. 6d.  
\*.\* In forwarding books the publishers are requested to state the selling price.

## SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Eight lines and under	...	...	...	£0 1 0
Each additional line	...	...	...	0 0 6
A whole column	...	...	...	17 6
A page	...	...	...	5 5 0

An average line contains six words.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, at the Office, not later than first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication; and if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post-Office, London. Small amounts may be paid in postage-stamps.

N.B.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive letters at *Postes Restantes* addressed either in initials or numbers.