

bulbs holding 3 c.cm. and 5 c.cm. respectively by several firms, and these are exceedingly convenient for those not practised in using it from a flask.

### NOTES, LETTERS, Etc.

#### THE TALLERMAN TREATMENT.

We have received the following letter:

##### re Tallerman Treatment.

Sir,—My attention has been called to the fact that you have inserted in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 3rd a letter which the Secretary of The Apparatus Company had written to a lady who was recently under treatment at the Institute in Welbeck Street.

Letters written under such circumstances would be treated in the ordinary way as private and also privileged communications, and it therefore seems a most unusual course for you to have published the same. I have in this respect especial reason to complain because there are several observations in the letter which, although they would probably be understood by the patient and Dr. Stephen Paget, the surgeon who had recommended her to undergo treatment, might be misconstrued by your readers. It therefore becomes necessary for me to further explain, and I must ask you to insert this letter containing the following explanatory remarks in the next number of your JOURNAL.

Paragraph 4 states: "In chronic cases Mr. Tallerman does not permit any patient to be accepted for a shorter course than ten treatments, but as you had been attended by a medical man your case did not come under his notice as it would have done."

From this it might be inferred that patients were treated here without medical introduction or approval, whereas the contrary is the case, seeing that up to the present time no cases have been treated without medical recommendation. The Secretary of the Company should have said—"As you were attended by a medical man your case did not come under Mr. Tallerman's notice." I wish to say further that Mr. Paget called at this institute and arranged for the treatment of the patient, and he attended twice with the patient; he also gave his instructions to the nurse that the patient was to be treated five times, and then she was to see him. Such circumstances do not require interference on our part.

There are three classes of patients who attend here: (1) Those who come without any introduction whatever, having heard of the treatment from some one who had benefited by it. These patients are referred to some medical man or another unconnected with the institute, whom they can consult, obtain a letter of introduction to us, paying the fee for same; without such letter of introduction they would not be accepted or treated. (2) Patients who come with a letter of introduction from their ordinary medical man. (3) Patients whose medical man attends with them, either on every occasion or when he thinks fit. In the latter class of case we do not interfere unless occasion renders it necessary. The first and second class of cases are usually seen by me and instructions for the treatment given to the matron.

With respect to fees, it is very well known to medical men that we have our fixed charge, but we have never refused to reduce those fees when cases have been represented to us by a medical man as deserving. It would not be difficult to indicate cases in which treatment has been given absolutely free.

Dr. Stephen Paget sent us three cases prior to the last one; in one there was a reduction of fees; in another half fees were charged; the third was simply a severe sprain, and was treated some six times. All the cases benefited. Dr. Paget did not allow the Tallerman treatment to be tried in this chronic case, when he stopped the treatment, when it might be said it had scarcely commenced, and it would have been time enough to have stopped the attendance of the patient after explaining the circumstances to us, and finding that we refused to make such concessions as would allow the patient to go on.

I object altogether to the unceremonious manner in which Dr. Paget thinks he may send a patient to us and withdraw her when he chooses, without the common courtesy of seeing us with respect to it.

The Tallerman treatment, as you are aware, has been most favourably reported upon and recommended by the highest medical authorities, and as I have said before we have not up to the present time treated any cases except they are medically recommended.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS A. TALLERMAN.

Tallerman Institute, Welbeck Street, W.

#### THE CAUSATION OF CANCER.

A LAY correspondent, "J. M. D.," asks us to publish some suggestions which he offers as to the causation of cancer. His letter is too long for us to print in full, so we extract from it what appears to be the main points. The writer thinks that the phytophthora which attack the potato, the tomato, and several other plants of the natural order *Solanaceae* may also produce cancer in human beings, and suggests that the consumption of plants belonging to this class may produce in the body a condition favourable for the growth of the infective parasites. He compares the incidence of the potato disease induced by the peronospora infestans with the incidence of cancer. Cancer is said to be induced by excessive nourishment; peronospora in potatoes is thought to be produced by excessive nutriment in the soil. Cancer seldom affects the young, and peronospora, too, seldom attacks young tubers. Cancer statistics indicate that the disease is commoner in low than in high altitudes; the same fact is also true of potato disease. Limestone districts are said to be especially cancer-free; lime treatment has been found beneficial in diseases of turnips. In Ireland, the land of the potato, cancer is remarkably prevalent.

#### THE DISCUSSION ON ALCOHOL AT SWANSEA.

DR. G. ARCHDALL REID (Southsea) writes: In the report of my reply to the discussion on my paper at the Swansea meeting there is an obvious error. I do not know how far I may have been responsible for the statement that "he did not say the germ plasma was unaffected—he said the germ cells were not affected," but in any case it is nonsense. If the germ plasma is affected the germ cells must be affected also. Readers who have followed the recent prolonged discussion in the *Lancet* will recognize that I merely maintain that germ cells (and plasma) were not permanently affected, since we have no reason to suppose that of all the cells of the body, germ cells alone are incapable of recovery after illness. One other point needs explanation. I stated

that disease "actually strengthens a race (not an individual) exposed to it." As I have explained at length in my volume *Alcoholism: A Study in Heredity*, a disease or any other injurious agency only strengthens the race exposed to it against that particular agency. Thus malaria has strengthened the race exposed to it against malaria and against malaria alone.

ERRATUM.—In the annotation on the etiology of leprosy in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 3rd, p. 844, column 1, line 13, for "Murphy" read "Impey."

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

A. Mr. F. Addiscott, London; Mr. H. E. Allan, London; Professor T. Clifford Allbutt, Cambridge; Dr. W. H. Alchin, London; Albino; Anxious. B. Mr. H. N. Barnett, Belfast; Mr. S. Boyd, London; Mr. L. A. Sidwell, London; Mr. P. S. Blaker, London; H. H. Bywater, M.B., Preston; A. E. Boycott, M.B., Hereford; Messrs. F. Bayer and Co., Manchester; Dr. J. G. Blackman, Portsmouth; Dr. C. Buttar, London; Dr. H. C. Bastian, London; Mrs. Bourne, Eastbourne; B. W. G.; Messrs. W. H. Beynon and Co., Cheltenham; Mr. W. B. Bennett, Liverpool. C. Sir J. A. Cockburn, K.O.M.G., London; Miss F. N. Connell, London; G. E. J. Crallan, M.B., Bournemouth; Mr. E. R. Carling, London; Dr. W. Collingridge, London; Dr. F. G. Crookshank, London; Mr. W. E. Cornwall, Melbourne; Dr. T. Cahill, London; Dr. H. A. Caley, London; Mr. J. A. Clubb, Liverpool; Chairman of Division. D. G. H. G. Davie, M.B., Manchester; Dr. T. W. Dewar, Dunblane; Deas; Mr. E. J. Dillon, Enniscoorthy; Mr. G. W. B. Daniell, Edinburgh; Dr. A. Duke, London; Director-General of the Medical Department of the Admiralty, London; J. F. H. Dally, M.B., Ventnor, I. of W. E. Enquirer; E. W. B. F. Miss C. Forrest, Bournemouth. G. Messrs. W. Green and Sons, Edinburgh; Dr. J. G. Gray, Glasgow; Mr. C. Greenwood, London; Mr. A. Godley, London; Dr. J. Galloway, London; Mr. J. E. Gordon, Salisbury. H. Hon. Sydney Holland, Salisbury; Miss E. S. Haldane, Auctherarder; H. T. Herring, M.B., London; Mr. J. Hutchinson, jun., London; Dr. W. P. Herrington, London; Mr. W. H. Hall, Tunbridge wells; Hon. Surgeon S.J.A.C.; Sir W. E. Hooper, London; Mr. A. Holmes, Manchester; Hospital Sister; Mr. F. C. Hett, Brig; N. B. Harman, M.B., London. I. Inquirer. J. J. D.; Dr. E. Jepson, Durham; Miss J. Johnson, Bideford; J. A. M. S. retired; J. C. B.; J. A. P. B.; E. B. Jago, M.B.; Rawmarsh; E. H. Jones, M.B., Northampton. M. Dr. J. Kerr, London; Mr. G. B. Kettle, London. N. Mr. J. Lawrence-Hamilton, Brighton; Mr. C. C. Lord, Liskeard; Mr. H. Lyle, Liverpool; Dr. O. E. Laurie, Redruth; Dr. W. V. Lush, Weymouth; T. D. Luke, M.B., Edinburgh; Liberia; Dr. T. G. Lyon, London. O. Dr. A. Macfadyen, London; Dr. R. W. Marsden, Manchester; Dr. D. McKenzie, London; Mr. H. Markby, Morley; Musalman; Mr. B. E. Matthews, London; Mr. E. D. Marriott, Nottingham, M.O.H.; Dr. R. Maclaren, Kenmore; Mr. W. J. Morton, London; H. Manley, M.B., West Bromwich; Medical Officer of Health. N. Mr. J. Neal, Birmingham; Dr. T. North, London. O. One who would like to know the reason why; Sir I. Owen, London; Mr. J. O'Keefe, Harrogate. P. Polwarth: Public Vaccinator of over Thirty Years; Mr. E. J. Pritchard, London; Miss S. Palmer, M.B., Ludhiana. R. G. A. Reid, M.B., Southsea; Dr. J. V. Rees-Roberts, London; Reg. B.; Miss K. Richmond, Birmingham. S. Sunderland Infirmary, Secretary of, Sunderland; Simple Simon; Dr. E. H. Starling, London; Mr. E. A. Schafer, Edinburgh; Mr. M. Scott, London; Sardam; Mr. A. R. Sieveking, Harrow; Dr. A. J. Sharp, Whiteby; Dr. G. A. Sutherland, London; Messrs. G. Street and Co., London; Mr. R. E. Slemann, London; Dr. J. F. W. Silk, London. T. T. M. B.; J. W. Taylor, M.B., Bristol; Sir H. Thompson, Bart., London; Mr. H. S. Tunnard, London; Dr. W. Tate, London; Mr. L. Tallerman, London. V. Mr. V. Vincent, East Dereham. W. Mr. T. W. Watt, Gosport; O. Williams, M.B., Glanvovey; Messrs. Wreath Brothers, London; Dr. F. Willcocks, London; Dr. W. E. Wynter, London; Weir, M.B., Glasgow; Dr. E. F. Willoughby, London; Sir H. G. Walpole, K.C.B., London; Mr. F. F. White, Coventry; Mr. S. W. Wilson, Aberystwith; Dr. H. F. Waterhouse, London; Mr. C. G. Watson, London, etc.

### BOOKS, Etc., RECEIVED.

Diät-Vorschriften für Gesunde und Kranke jeder Art. Von Dr. J. Borntraeger. Vierte verbesserte und erweiterte Auflage. Leipzig: H. Hartung und Sohn, 1904. M. 2.

Die Gallensteinkrankheit, ihre Ursachen, Pathologie, Diagnose, und Therapie. Von Spezialarzt Dr. F. Schilling. Leipzig: H. Hartung und Sohn, 1904. M. 1.80.

A Textbook on Operative Surgery. By Warren Stone Bickham, Ph.D., M.D., Philadelphia, New York, and London; W. B. Saunders and Co. 1903. 25s.

A Textbook of Obstetrics. By Clarence Webster, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P. Edin., F.R.S. Edin. Philadelphia, New York, and London: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1903. 21s.

Mankind in the Making. By H. G. Wells. London: Chapman and Hall, Limited. 1903. 7s. 6d.

Die Fermente und ihre Wirkungen. Von Carl Oppenheimer. Zweite neubearbeitete Auflage. Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel, 1903. M. 12.

First Aid. By R. J. Collie, M.D., and C. F. Gill and Sons. G.S. London: George Gill and Sons. G.S.

Twenty-two Different Photos of the "Katie King" Series still in existence, etc. By J. Hawkins Simpson. London: Sands and Co. 1903. 6d.

Studies in Laboratory Work. By C. W. Daniels, M.B., M.B.C.S. London: John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Limited. 1903. 15s.

Mr. Balfour's Pamphlet: A Reply. By Harold Cox. First Impression. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1903. 1s.

Dr. John Brown: A Biography and a Criticism. By the late John Taylor Brown, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot. Edited by W. B. Dunlop, M.A. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1903. 5s.

A Manual of Pathology. By Joseph Coates, M.D. Fifth edition. Revised by L. R. Sutherland, M.B. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1903. 28s.

Allgemeine Physiologie. Ein Grundriss der Lehre vom Leben. Von Max Verworn. Vierte, neu bearbeitete Auflage. Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1903. M. 15.

A Thesaurus of Medical Words and Phrases. By Wilfred M. Barton, M.D., and Walter A. Wells, M.D. Philadelphia, New York, and London: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1903. 12s.

\*. 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	...	...	...	£ 4 0
Each additional line	...	...	...	0 6
A whole column	...	...	...	2 0
A page	...	...	...	5 5

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.