ERRATUM.—In the paragraph in the British Medical Journal of January 5th (p. 41) referring to the honour conferred by the Crown on Sir John H. Esdaile, F.R.C.S., it should have been stated that Sir John H. Esdaile, F.R.C.S., is not Lord Mayor (not Lord Round) as President of University College, London.

ANTITOXIN, THE PRESS, AND ADVERTISERS.

Several correspondents have called our attention to the activity of the ubiquitous reporter, who records with a needless parade of names the use of diphtheria antitoxin by various practitioners in various localities. It would be very desirable to use such information that it is undesirable to mention in public prints the names of the practitioners who may have adopted this method of treatment with success.

A correspondent sends us a circular issued by a well-known firm of manufacturing chemists in the north of England which contains in large type the particulars of a case in which the serum supplied by them was first used, and the name of the medical man who used it.

"Good wine needs no bush," and we think the chemists in question would be well advised to drop this part of their circular, and to issue their preparation to the profession on its merits without mentioning any names except such as may be necessary for identifying the source of the serum.

CHEAP DISPENSARIES.

DR. LOUIS F. DODS (West Hampstead) writes on this subject criticising the conclusions of Dr. Martin. He points out that there are some preparations sold under consideration of the fact that they may be afforded the time to go to them and who yet cannot pay full fees, and that unless such charges be fixed for them they must be forced to go to the prescribing chemist. He maintains that at even a cheap dispensary it is possible to give good advice and good medicine. He also shows that this measure is not evil. He wants even the cheapest of dispensaries, and asks that the licensing authorities should unanimously make it "infamous conduct" to have dealings with these institutions.

"THE VILLAGE DOCTOR."

DR. JOHN SERVICE (Newtown, Sydney, N.S.W.), in sending a copy of verses, from which we extract the following stanzas, writes: These verses were suggested to me in Melbourne, November, 1901, while reading in the British Medical Journal the following passage in an introductory address on Old Age, delivered at the opening of the medical department of the Yorkshire College, Victoria University, Leeds, by Sir James Chrlston Browne, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.: "Amongst the elderly sick, there is a large number of men, and even of women, who are neither very rich nor very poor, but who have neither the means "

White headed, benevolent, and bent with years,
By children loved and by their sires revered,
The village doctor, in his lonely chamber,
A world of wisdom in his staff and beard.

High priest of mysteries at birth and death,
The unknown author of the sun and moon,
When the agony of the first and latest breath
Is soon and sweet for men. But lo!

The ancient enemy, alas,
He often ward in the deadly fight,
Has swept the earth in red and blue,
And day is blotted out, and there is night.

Methinks I see a pageant winding slow
Up the steep bank and round the ancient lane,
Followed by hundreds, weeping as they go,
For him they never more may see again.

FLUESS STOVES.

MR. THOMAS FLETCHER, F.C.S., writes to draw our attention to the researches of Dr. Haldane, which were recently brought before the British Association, and gives a series of facts and figures strongly confirming what was said by Dr. Haldane in the Medical Journal of November 10th, 1894, page 1,691, in an editorial comment on flueess stoves. He states that human beings can live and breathe in an atmosphere in which the amount of carbon-monoxide and the carbon-dioxide increased to such an extent that a candle will go out. We may safely say that any amount of gas and coal-gas, carbon-monoxide formed by the combustion of coal gas in an ordinary room, under ordinary conditions, would be inappreciable, except to delicate chemical analysis, and almost without bar to the sensitive apparatus of the detector from which it could be injurious to sulphuric and nitric solids and carbon-monoxide. The last is undeniably dangerous, but its rapidity of reaction is so great in the absorption, that it is not formed. We appear then to be at the face of the fact, that the production of the gas and carbon-monoxide is so minute that even when the gas is absorbed, it is with the exception of the sulphur compounds, are inappreciable to those present in the room. Why then, he asks, are we sometimes overcome by the most cases collective effect and headache? This answer is that connected heat rises to the ceiling and when there, the white light of the floor is warmed, the temperature at the top floor being as much as it is not higher than that of the upper part of the room, and that it is to this fact that are due the effects of carbon-monoxide.

In this it would seem hot pipes and flueess stoves stand on somewhat the same footing; they heat the air rather than warm the room. This is the best thing that matters. It would be better, he thinks, in a bed-room, where the whole body is at one level, and he believes it will be found to be easier in that in bed-room, where the whole body is at one level, and he believes it will be found to be easier in that when the smoke is heated and in consequence, the whole body is at one level, and he believes it will be found to be easier in that when the smoke is heated and in consequence there is no necessity for a chimney being fitted out in order to take the smoke off. In this, he thinks, the air will be much better, and the temperature will be more uniform throughout the room.

PLIGHTS FOR INVALIDS IN THE CLIMATE OF EGYPT.

DR. CHARLES MURPHY JONES (Liverpool, Redhill) writes: The remarks of Dr. Bentley on the climate of Egypt, on the cases of invalids to whom is due to themselves I heartily endorse in every particular, even to clothing. Cairo is an interesting city for perfectly healthy people to visit and dwell in, but from its insanitary atmosphere and indifferent supply of the very reverse for an invalid of any kind. An invalid sent to Egypt for a pure and dry air should not stay even one single night in Cairo, but drive straight from the county, and Ismailia about three hours) to the Mena Hotel, 5 or miles from Cairo, at the Great Pyramid, a journey of one h, and take the train to Helouan. When an invalid is improved in health and wishes for a change he might move up the Nile in a dabbah to Luxor, or the post boat (nothing will be gained by a combination of railway to Assiut and then the post boat except fatigue). At Luxor be accommodated with a small, but nice house, a cross of Kamak, airy and not surrounded by trees and native dwellings, belonging to the Thewfick Company. At Assouan, about 150 miles further up, the hotel is most excellent and well equipped. At this place there is very dry and rain almost unknown. A few drops fell when I was there. Last year, a few days before my departure, there was a shower of rain from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. With Dr. Bentley's remarks on railway travelling and overfatigue all will agree. I would, however, remark that smoked almonds are more necessary than an umbrella. These can be protected by a padded coat, and the head by a good covering, but the acrid nictis penetrate the eyeballs and do much mischief. For this reason I recommended smoked almonds to the Royal Engineer workmen at Hong Kong. They were sanctioned.

TREATMENT OF BRONCHIDOSIS.

DR. E. A. C. BAYLOR (Ash, Dover) writes: From the numerous inquiries owing to the present time to time in the British Medical Journal it is evident that the want of an efficient and ready means of controlling the disease of bronchidosis, is still very much felt. I therefore venture to suggest a simple remedy—by means of powdered alum, which, although incapable of curing the affection for it is not yet sufficient or satisfactory influence than any other agent I have tried, and at the same time is so simple of application as not to be too irksome to repeat occasionally. The feet having been washed, the alum should be rubbed in dry before the feet and on the soles of the feet, the excess of powder not being rubbed off, and at the same time the alum should be washed into the socks before putting on. The effect of this good treatment is soon observed by the almost immediate arrest of the epidemic malacical which the disease produces. This cause is due to the same action, by which the alkaline elements of the sweat are rendered less eroding, seemingly probably, as a rule, all done at one time, but gradually diminishes, although it loses its offensive characteristics almost at once. Incomming treatment for this condition it is very essential to wash the feet as old as possible, so that a white become after a time saturated by the sweat and most offensive, and this greatly aids in containing new socks. With this treatment frequent change of socks is usually unnecessary.

OXYGEN LOCALY IN THE TREATMENT OF WOUNDS AND ULCERS.

MR. GEORGE STOKER (Hertford Street, W.) writes: I am very sensible of the debt the profession owes to the author of The Medical Digest. At the same time, if Dr. Sacle had made himself acquainted with the details of my "new treatment," I do not think he would have written as he has done. I have examined his references, and I cannot find there, or elsewhere, allusion to any such method as I have devised. The treatment can be seen in operation at the Hanover Nursing Institute, 22, Hanover Street, W., and I will be happy if any of my professional brethren will go and see it. The wounds are washed about 11.30 A.M. and 8 P.M.

THE APPOTION OF PERITONEUM TO PERITONEUM.

MR. GEORGE LAW (Clapham, S.W.) writes: Mr. Greig Smith has done good service in drawing attention to this subject, and his remarks will tend to improve the technique of many operations in abdominal surgery, such as vesical-hysterectomy, which will become vastly better operations if his personal experience is included. His practice and manner of working in the bar has been of great help to me in methods in the hands of the less experienced; but the procedure is by no means new as a matter of practice. I well remember my surprise at first hearing Mr. Law's description of the operation, and on difference to orthodox methods. Once I asked him what became of the intestine! He replied that where he, on opening the abdomen, tore up the serous lining with his finger, he made no attempt to unite them. He replied that he did not know, and that it was a surgical operation. Certainly few surgeons who are speedy, and firmer union of their wounds than Mr. Tait. Another example was afforded by a case of an exploratory operation which revealed a large malignant growth attached to the bowel which the intestine was divided. The rapidity with which this was sewn up—