

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

QUERIES.

- J. S. asks for advice with regard to the climate of Brighton in its relation to dyspepsia. Is it good or bad, and, if the latter, what is the factor?
- M.D. wishes to hear of a small book dealing with the subject of medical partnerships.
- SMALL-POX HOSPITALS.
- M.O.H. asks for any information in reference to any injunction that may have been obtained by private individuals or otherwise in the case of the erection of small-pox hospitals by local authorities, and with special reference to the danger of aerial infection or the alleged damage to adjoining property.

ANSWERS.

- MUSSELS.**—We advise our correspondent to request that his name should be removed from the advertisements of the Lodge.
- DR. J. C. REEVE.**—We have received from various correspondents a number of similar letters. Nothing is known as to the personality of the writer.
- C. E. P.**—We regret that, in view of the very numerous demands on our space, the suggestion which our correspondent makes is found to be impracticable.
- G. H.**—We do not see that there could be any objection to a dispenser who is duly registered as a dentist performing dental operations in the surgery of the medical man who employs him as a dispenser.
- GLADIATOR.**—Particulars as to medical practice in Canada will be found in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 27th, 1898, p. 570. A *Medical and Surgical Directory of the United States and Canada* is published annually by Messrs. J. B. Flint and Co., of New York.
- OCULENS.**—(1) The vulcanised pad should be sewn inside the patient's boot beneath the instep, and should be bevelled to fit the foot at that spot. (2) The case is a difficult one, and the patient should be advised to consult an aural surgeon.
- CAPT. I.M.S.**—Some few years ago someone started the idea that the haircurlers mentioned injured the sight, and as a result surgeons both at the hospitals and in private were asked by everyone what substitute could be found. So far as we are aware, however, there is no foundation for the suggestion.
- G. H. B.**—We consider that the practice of giving courses of ambulance lectures without fee is open to many objections, and that it is far better to make a stated charge, which might be fixed in relation to the fee usually made by the St. John Ambulance Association for similar lectures.
- ANXIOUS INQUIRER.**—Various methods of embalming were described in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 28th, 1898, p. 1403. In the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* of September, 1890 (vol. XXXVI, p. 297), the late Sir John Struthers described a method of embalming for which he claimed the advantages of efficiency, simplicity, and cheapness.
- FALCON.**—At present a medical man holding British qualifications is allowed to practise in Italy, but only among his own countrymen. An attempt is being made by a section of the Italian profession to make the possession of an Italian licence compulsory on foreigners as a condition of medical practice of any kind in Italy.
- M.B.**—There is nothing unprofessional or contrary to any rule of ethics in attending patients on a fair contract system. It would be impossible to say what would be a reasonable charge unless all the circumstances of the particular patient were known, and our correspondent would be better able to arrange this for himself. The basis on which it should be assessed would be the wage earnings of the patient, or as suggested, the wages earned by the entire family.
- R.C.P.**—Presuming that a "livery" patient requires the action of sulphated alkaline waters, Carlsbad would be the best health resort, and its hotels open in the middle of April. The waters are accessible earlier, but the accommodation before the middle of April is limited. Aix-la-Chapelle, with its sulphur and saline waters, exercises a good influence in liver affections, though it is principally used for syphilis. It is open all the year round, and with its pleasant promenades and drives, might suit R. C. P.'s purposes. Few foreign health resorts open before May.
- SANATORIA FOR THE OPEN-AIR TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.
- W. D.** and **E. W. J.** will find particulars in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 23th, 1899, p. 247, and February 4th, 1899, p. 324.
- F. V.**—Some information will be found in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of September 3rd, 1898, p. 607; October 29th, 1898, p. 1383; November 19th, 1898, p. 1599; January 28th, 1899, p. 247; and February 4th, 1899, p. 324.
- BOOKS ON STAMMERING.
- Q.**—Our correspondent might consult either of the following pamphlets: *Stammering: Its Nature and Treatment*, by Emil Behnke, London: Fisher Unwin, 1893, 1s. *Stammering, Stuttering, and other Speech Affections*, by W. Abbotts, M.D., etc. (London: Savoy Press, 1898, 1s.) The more scientific account of the matter is to be found in the chapter on the Treatment of Stammering in the large book on *Disorders of Speech*, by John Wylie, M.D. (Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1895, 18s.)
- THE COCKADE.
- V. D.**—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 12th, 1895, p. 113, Mr. G. Ambrose Lee (Bluemantle), of Herald's College, stated that the opinion given by that College is that the privilege appertains and is confined to the naval and military services, including the militia, yeomanry, and volunteers, but that every officer, whatever his rank, as

long as he holds Her Majesty's commission, has a right to mount, in the person of his servant, a cockade. The reply evidently alludes to the military cockade only. The civil cockade may be worn by all magistrates placed on the Commission of the Peace by the Lord Chancellor. It is an open question at present whether those who are magistrates by virtue of their being chairmen of district councils, and thus magistrates by Act of Parliament, are entitled to use the cockade during their term of office.

MORTALITY OF CHILDREN.

J. D. L.—We may refer our correspondent to a paper on Pregnancy to Relation to Life Assurance contributed to the Section of Medicine at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Edinburgh, by Dr. John Playfair and Mr. T. Wallace. The paper, together with a discussion on it, will be found in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of September 17th, 1898, pages 766-769. The mortality of 25,308 cases of labour attended by the Guy's Hospital Lying-in Charity was recorded by Dr. Horrocks as $\frac{3}{4}$ per 1,000 for the ten years, 1875 to 1885. Statistics of the death-rate for primiparæ are difficult to obtain.

THE TREATMENT OF DANDRUFF.

C. B. writes: In answer to "Sapoo," the following method might prove effectual if it has not been already tried: (1) Disinfect the scalp thoroughly with r in 2,000 mercury perchloride for, say, three days. (2) Then use sulphur, which is so useful in all sebaceous affections, and combine with it an antiseptic, as: R Sulph. precip. gr. xv; acid. carbol. mxv; vaseline ʒj, and add some scent if desired, such as oil of lavender or bergamot. When this has been used for a week or two the scent usually disappears and the condition of the hair is improved. (3) All brushes, combs, hat-linings, etc., should receive antiseptic treatment. (4) Washing with the perchloride and the use of the ointment should be repeated from time to time, say once a week.

CANVASSING.

M. D. writes: A firm of surgeons in this locality hold an appointment of medical officers to the Manchester and London Assurance Company. The canvassers of this company proceed from house to house to obtain members. I hear the premium is from 2½d. a week, of which their doctor gets s. a quarter. This might not be so reprehensible in the slums, but surely there is no excuse for anything of the kind in a residential district.

F. W. D. MCG. writes: Why does not the British Medical Council do something with reference to the medical aid and canvassing, so as to strengthen the hands of the General Medical Council to get them to put a stop to this constant sweating of the profession?

. Our correspondents refer to a subject which has engaged the attention of the Council of the Association. The Council has expressed itself decidedly against those medical aid associations which canvass, and is prepared to consider specific complaints properly supported by evidence against any member of the Association who employs canvassers for patients, or is an officer of a medical association which does so. The Council has endeavoured to organise throughout the Association ethical committees to take cognisance of such breaches of professional good conduct. There is no reason to doubt the intention of the Council to back up the action of such ethical committees in endeavouring to enforce upon members of the Association conformity with the rules laid down; but the Council is not the body in which complaints of this sort should be initiated, and it is not the business of the Council to seek for evidence and to be at once the prosecutor and judge of the conduct of members. The Council has done its best to provide the machinery, and will when called upon play its part, but it remains for members to do their share towards bringing offenders to book.

NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

REICHARDT FUND.

DR. G. H. SAVAGE (3, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, W.) writes to acknowledge the following further subscriptions to this fund:

	£	s.	d.
F. Niel Gandin	2	2
O. W. Berry	1	1

ERRATUM.—In the list of subscriptions to the Kanchack Memorial Fund published last weeks, the name of Dr. McCook Weir appeared as Dr. McWeir.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S LOGIC.

T.A.P. writes: The Lord Chancellor is reported in your columns to have said in his reply to the deputation on incipient insanity: "If people disobeyed the law, that seemed to him to be a reason for making the law more stringent. The law of larceny would not be abolished because, notwithstanding all laws against larceny, people still stole. Such a line of legislation could not be followed." This is surely a line of argument more plausible than logical. A failure to comply with the requirements of the larceny law is compared with a disregard of the law of larceny. In breaking the larceny law a man breaks a fundamental moral law. In breaking the larceny law a man commits an offence which the law itself has created, and in which the moral sense is not violated. The plea that disregard for the law of larceny should be a reason not for relaxing or modifying the law but for making it more stringent, is valid simply because the law of the land is in that case one which enforces an elementary moral obligation. The larceny law, on the other hand, lays down a particular method of procedure, not right or wrong in itself, but carrying with it certain inconveniences which lead people to evade it. This evasion naturally suggests the desirability of modifying that method, which is thus proved to be an inefficient means of securing the end of law. The plea that such evasion of the larceny law is a ground for greater stringency can only be valid when it is proved that the requirements of the larceny law are of a nature as essentially moral as the command-