ERRATUM.—In the annotation on the Care of the Feebly-Minded, in the British Medical Journal of May 13th, page 1175, column 2, line 3 from bottom read “care.”

CORRECTION.—The name of the store mentioned by Dr. A. M. Roberts (South Norwood) in his communication on the use of heat in the treatment of scarlet fever, published in the Journal of May 6th, page 1140, is not the “Intra,” and not the “Justice” store as printed. Messrs. D. Blair and Co., 47, Cannon Street, E.C., are the makers.

LETTERS.

A CAUTION.

Dr. Leslie Phillips (The Crescent, Hingham) writes: I am informed that a man giving the name of Whittington is begging letters and calling on my medical friends in London, in which capacity my name is being used. Such use of my name is entirely unauthorized by me.

AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF DR. COKE.

Dr. J. C. Eames (Barnfield House, Stonecough, near Manchester) writes to acknowledge the following additional subscription received on behalf of Dr. Coke:—K. W. M. £1 10.

A DRUM-CUDDLE-DE-CEDRAL SYSTEM.

Dr. A. Gorams (General) writes: We have been entertained by a communication headed as above, which appeared in the British Medical Journal of May 6th, page 1140. I wish to make the following corrections: In line 9, after “multiplication” add “and division” after “744,” in line 10, instead of “744” read “744,” in line 11, instead of “times” read “numbers of,” and in lines 12 and 13 erase the “twos.” The errors are mine.

THE BRITISH NORTH BORNEO PUBLIC MEDICAL SERVICE.

We regret to learn that amongst the officers of the North Borneo Public Medical Service owing to recent changes in the pay and privileges of the officers, it would seem that the directors of the service believe that by keeping a monopoly of the sale of drugs in the hands of the company a sufficient profit would be realised to pay the expenses of the medical establishment, and when this result was not realised they reduced the salaries of the medical officers. In addition to this there seems to be a desire on the part of the directors to compel the medical officers to give the expenses of all Government officials, galls, and hospitals, and to manage the aforesaid drug trade for the Government. Assuming the facts stated, the directors are stated to have asked the officers to undertake the work which is hardly likely to work satisfactorily, and we trust that the directors of the company will see their way to making better arrangements.

BROMHITIS EXCITED BY SULPHURIC ACID.

Mr. John Spurway, M.B. (Merton) writes: J. K., aged 59, a man subject to slight attacks of asthma, but at the time in good health, was on March 21st furnishing a house with sulphur in the usual way, after a case of scarlet fever. Instead of leaving the room immediately after lighting the sulphur, unfortunately he remained for some time in the room, descending to stop the cracks of a body-lifting door. He was thus exposed for some minutes to the fumes of sulphuric acid gas. It produced rapidly severe bronchitis and bronchopneumonia. On the next day he remained away from work, and was treated with an expectorant mixture, followed by hot poultices.

He has produced free expectoration and some relief; but he soon grew rapidly worse, and developed capillary bronchitis of a severe degree, with dyspnoea, cyanosis, and under the very close watch of his physician his pulse hard and strong. His temperature varied from 101.2 to 103.2°F.

He has had some temporary relief from the use of a tent bed, with a brolite, and McCann (No. 3) to the chest, and several capsules of amyl nitrite and the addition of 9 mgs. of a 1 per cent solution of morphia to his mixture, seemed to relieve his breathing for a time. But in spite of good nursing and constant care he still got worse, and died on March 29th, the eighth day of his illness. No doubt the SO₂ was the exciting cause of the bronchitis which thus ended fatally.

The case is interesting as showing the danger associated with the use of SO₂ as a disinfectant, although when used carefully and with due precautions that danger is reduced to a minimum. It also speaks in favour of other such mixtures, such as formalin (formaldehyde, and chinosol.

FOETATION IN UTERINE INERTIA.

Dr. P. Gower Gardner (Warwick) writes: I can endorse Mr. Wharton’s statement in your issue of May 6th as to the value of this procedure. I was the reader called to the patient on the 2nd. The membranes were ruptured at 1.45 A.M., and liquor amnii had been draining away almost all the time, but there had not been a single pain. The ovum was fully distended and there was no evidence of any contractions of the abdomen and the result was highly satisfactory, the pains recommenced at once and the child was expelled in ten minutes or less.

BICYCLE TYRES.

W. R. G: writes: Mr. Turner, in his addenda to “Ison,” makes no mention of Flessy tyres. After a trial of other patterns these have proved themselves so satisfactory in country practice, that I venture to send a few notes to the Editor on this subject. Since the war, I fear, we have not done justice to this pattern. Since punctures will always occur at the wrong time, the tyre most easily replaceable is that of the General pattern. After the Flessy tyre and other slight practice, no mending shall take more than fifteen minutes, while in the vast majority of punctures the single tube has been quite sufficient, so that in the advancing days of the bicycle pump, carrying a few miles, only quite a large nail rendering immediate attention necessary. As to durability, my back tyre ran well over 3,000 miles on all sorts of roads and in all seasons before it was necessary to replace it, and my front one is still going well with practically no signs of wear over 4,000 miles; this I infer to be due to the change of life of patterns. They work best when pumped up hard, thus leading to the following advantage: I have found, in the past, that riding fast the vibration is greater than on the double tubes, in which there is somewhat more of an absorbent action for obstacles than in the single tires.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.


Lectures on the Principles of Surgery in General Medicine, by F. K. Mann, M.B., Ch.M., 2s. net. (London: C. V. Tuttle, 1899.)


The Scientific Bases of Medicine, by J. F. P. C. F. R.C.S., 2s. 6d. net. (London: A. and C. Black, 1899.)

The Science of Medicine, by J. F. P. C. F. R.C.S., 2s. 6d. net. (London: A. and C. Black, 1899.)

Experiments and Observations in the Practice of Medicine, with Answers, Part III, Fever, Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone, 1899.


The Floral School of Medicine, by E. F. C. T. B., 2s. 6d. net. (London: J. M. Dent & Sons, 1899.)

A New and Improved Method of Sterilising Surfaces by Steam, by F. L. S., 6d. (London: E. and S. Livingstone, 1899.)

In forwarding books the publishers are requested to state the selling prices.

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