

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, W.C.; those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, W.C.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Manager, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, W.C., on receipt of proof.

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

TELEPHONE (National):—

EDITOR, GENERAL SECRETARY AND MANAGER,
2631, Gerrard.

QUERIES.

C. S. will be obliged for any information as to the latest literature on puerperal fever and puerperal insanity.

LOST wishes to know the pathological condition of "beat knee," and what is the appearance of a knee under that condition.

FRENKEL'S TREATMENT OF ATAXIA.

H. J. asks to be recommended an establishment in this country for the teaching of walking to tabetics on Dr. Frenkel's method or an exhaustive account of the method.

* * We are unable to recommend an establishment such as that to which he refers. He would probably obtain most of the information he requires from the English translation of Dr. H. S. Frenkel's *Treatment of Tabetic Ataxia by the Aid of Gymnastic Exercise*, by Dr. L. Freyberger (Rebman, 12s. 6d. net.)

THE PERCENTAGE OF MEN WITH HERNIA.

C. D. R. asks for information as to the percentage of men in this country, of the working age, who suffer from hernia, and adds: I believe it is a fact that some, if not all, of the insurance companies will refuse to insure men so afflicted under the Workmen's Compensation Act, which comes into force next July. In this case it would surely throw a large number of able-bodied men out of work and entail a serious burden on the ratepayers.

* * In this country it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain any reliable figures as to the percentage of men of the working age who suffer from hernia. In countries in which military conscription is in force, attempts have been made to determine this percentage in subjects of about the age of 21 years. The published results, however, give very little help, as they vary to a considerable degree, the rejections on account of hernia being about 12.8 per 1,000 in France and 26 per 1,000 in Switzerland. It would not be far wrong, we think, to estimate the prevalence of ruptured males in this country as 1 in from 15 to 20, but this prevalence would be greater in the working classes and vary very much within these limits in some occupations. In most instances the subject of a hernia can, we believe, readily obtain relief from the disabilities referred to by submitting himself to operative treatment for radical cure.

A CASE FOR PROGNOSIS.

PERPLEXED seeks suggestions as to the etiology and prognosis of the following case: The wife of the patient on waking on January 17th found her husband, a healthy, abstemious mason, aged 61, twitching and unable to answer her. "Perplexed" on his arrival noted great restlessness, attempts to get out of bed, a pale face, pupils irresponsive to light, but otherwise normal; temperature normal, pulse 60; inability to put out the tongue, but ability to answer "yes" or "no" to shouted questions. A catheter drew off about a pint of acid urine, free from albumen and sugar, sp. gr. 1030. Similar urine was withdrawn night and morning during the next forty-eight hours. The bowels, not moved by croton oil π_j , responded at last to castor oil and a soap enema passed through a long rectal tube. Unconsciousness passed away after forty-eight hours, but returned after a few hours, and lasted fifteen further hours. After this the patient recovered slowly, and worked occasionally. He was observed to twitch sometimes during sleep, and appeared dull, but only com-

plained of heaviness in the head. He lived chiefly on milk, and repeated examination showed nothing abnormal in the urine or in the patient beyond what has been noted. Matters continued thus until April 16th, when he was again found in the morning unable to speak. This time "Perplexed" found him more restless than before, kicking the bedclothes, and singing snatches of hymns. The left pupil was smaller than the right, but except in these two particulars the conditions were the same as on the previous occasion. This time he recovered consciousness in forty-eight hours.

ANSWERS.

CARBOLIC.—Messrs. Macmillan and Co. publish a good portrait of Lord Lister, suitable for framing, price 5s.

DEAFNESS AFTER TYPHOID FEVER.

F. S. Z.—The deafness occasioned by typhoid fever is sometimes of the nature of a catarrh of the middle ear, but sometimes also a "nerve deafness." In the absence of detail it is impossible to give definite advice, but speaking generally it would probably be quite safe to give strychnine in increasing doses and to try the effect of inflation by Politzer's method.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND LIFE POLICIES.

T. D. P.—Judging from the number of communications we receive with regard to circular letters from life assurance companies asking medical men to become medical examiners and at the same time inviting them to take out a life policy with the company, this form of canvassing must be meeting with a considerable amount of success. We have no wish to prejudice companies employing agents who resort to this plan, but we think it well to point out that a person proposing to effect life assurance should inquire very carefully into the standing of the office, and the amount of its resources to meet possible claims. Capital subscribed but not paid up may, of course, be taken into consideration, but it must be remembered that uncalled capital does not, when called, always yield its face value. In some of the circulars we have seen the agent hints that the amount of fees likely to accrue from medical examinations will cover or more than cover the doctor's policy, in none, however, is there any specific undertaking to this effect and the circumstances under which the agent can give such an undertaking must be very exceptional; in a matter so important as life assurance too much care cannot be taken in selecting an office.

LETTERS, NOTES, Etc.

HAEMORRHAGE FROM THE CORD.

DR. GEORGE W. R. DABBS (London, E.C.) writes: A case of some interest has come my way which, with the consent of a Spanish confrère, I wish briefly to record. A lady had lost three children—she was a resident in Spain on all three occasions—from haemorrhage on the cord separating. A fourth child has been born, and is now alive and well. The separation of the cord was waited for, and haemorrhage duly appearing, the separation was expedited with scissors, and the wound painted over with adrenalin 5 parts and vernisol 95 parts. There was no further haemorrhage.

THE TREATMENT OF SCABIES BY BALSAM OF PERU.

MAJOR J. W. PORTER, R.A.M.C. (Colchester) writes: I am obliged to your correspondents for their letters calling attention to possible albuminuria after this application, a fact of which I was not aware. I now make it a rule to test the urine for albumen before applying the remedy, and also on the day after. I have lately ordered the patients a hot bath with plenty of soap twenty-four hours after the balsam has been applied. So far there have been no relapses, and it would therefore appear that the acaris is killed, as well as the ova, within the first few hours after the application. This being so, the objections to the use of this certain cure for scabies would appear to be reduced to a minimum.

ERRATUM.—The price of the *City of London Directory*, to which favourable attention was directed in these columns on April 27th, is 12s. 6d., and not as before stated. The work is published at the offices of the *City Press*, 148, Aldersgate Street, E.C.

In the review of Dr. E. Friedrich's book, *Die Seereisen zu Heil- und Erholungszwecken*, published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of April 6th, 1907, page 816, the name of the author was incorrectly printed as Friedrich.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Eight lines and under	...	...	...	20	4	0
Each additional line	...	...	...	0	0	6
A whole column	...	...	...	2	13	4
A page	...	...	...	8	0	0

An average line contains six words. Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, not later than first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication; and if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference. All remittances by Post Office Orders must be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.