Letters, Notes, and Answers.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments in The British Medical Journal are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

Queries.

A. E. has a patient, aged 70, who suffers from dyspepsia and irritability of the bowels, following severe gastric influenza; these symptoms are not relieved even by small quantities of the following: "W." suggests the following:

A. E., male-fern, observation; a tumbler of hot water, once one hour before breakfast, and a simple morning diet. If the head be not then found a third dose will be given; this treatment must be continued. As the worm generally breaks at the moment of taking the dose, a piece of the fragment remains in an exceedingly slender filament, the most careful scrutiny is absolutely needed. The cure in which the motion is continued, is covered with black crape, to throw out in relief the fine white filament terminating in the head.

Questions and Answers.

A. W.—Our correspondent should consult Sir King Fowler's remarks on the treatment of dyspepsia in The Lancet, vol. 105, p. 841. The patient should be kept in bed under close observation, and the male fern will prove the most satisfactory remedy. Private and out-patient cases do not do so well as in-patients simply because they cannot be so thoroughly watched. We have received the most satisfactory results by giving a dose of male fern every four or five days, the following diet must be given; two pints of beef-tea, one tin of Mason's essence, two rupees, and 4 oz. of port wine, whilst the patient takes 2 grains of extract of cascara sagra three times daily. On the fourth day he should take, about 5 a.m., 1 oz. of haustus senna co.; at 9 a.m., 15 minims of the extract in 1 oz. of a capsule, the dose to be repeated at 9, 10, 30, and 4. At 11 a.m. the haustus senna must be repeated. If by 1 p.m. the worm has not been passed and the head found, another course of treatment with male fern at intervals of a quarter of an hour must be carried out, to be followed in an hour or two by a purge, and, if the head be not then found a third dose will be given; this treatment must be continued. As the worm generally breaks at the moment of taking the dose, a piece of the fragment remains in an exceedingly slender filament, the most careful scrutiny is absolutely needed. The cure in which the motion is continued, is covered with black crape, to throw out in relief the fine white filament terminating in the head.

Death of the Emperor Napoleon.

M. D.—The officer acting as orderly officer at Longwood during the closing days of Napoleon's illness was Captain Crockatt of the 20th Regiment, who was appointed to that position on April 14th, 1821. Captain Crockatt was entrusted with the official dispatches announcing the death of Napoleon, and on his arrival in England received his majority and a present of £500. He became General Crockatt and died in 1879, at the advanced age of 87, as far as is known, did not reveal the contents of the papers relating to his connection with Napoleon. Crockatt succeeded Captain Englebert Latyens of the same regiment, who resigned his officer's commission on Napoleon's death, and treated him for the regiment at Gillingham, Kent. Napoleon had presented to Dr. Arnot, on the March, a copy of Marlborough's Campaigns for the library of the 20th Regiment, and Latyens was commissioned to send them to the regiment. But unfortunately the book was burnt by Napoleon, and was destroyed by the Imperial "N." and the words "L'Empereur Napoleon." For this reason, and the fact that Louis thought such a gift might seduce the allegiance of the officers, Napoleon had the book returned, and it was sent to the Duke of York at once allowed the 20th Regiment to retain the book, saying that "Such a gift from Napoleon to a British regiment was most gratifying to him, and that the safe detention of such a volume was sufficient testimony that the regiment had done its duty." The book is now in the library of the regiment. (See History of 20th Regiment, by B. Smythe, M.V.O.)

Acute Pneumonia during Treatment with Arsenic.

Dr. George Pernet [London, W.], writes in the Journal, a query as to the origin of the above statement. My learned friend, Mr. C. W. F. Goss, of the Bishopsgate Institute, has kindly furnished me with what appears to be the solution. He points out that Carlyle, in his "Signs of the Times" quotes from Pierre Jean Cabanis (1757-1808), physician to Mirabeau, as follows: "As the liver secretes bile so does the brain secretion, that poetry and religion are products of the smallest intestines."