

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

#### QUESTIONS.

- A. desires to hear of an institution where the Schott treatment could be carried out in London (N.).
- M.B. wants information about a suitable place for a chronic inebriate who will not consent to go to any large or public home.
- H. J. W. will be glad if any one can inform him of some way of preventing ants getting into a house and overrunning store cupboards, etc.? He has been much bothered with them for the last few weeks.
- "RUSTIC" would be obliged if any country member would say if he has used an American buggy or American gig in his practice and if satisfactory.
- G. P. would be glad to know of any institution or home where a female, aged 25, a confirmed epileptic, would be admitted. She could only pay a very small fee.
- GNORAMUS writes: Would one of your readers who has recently passed the M.D. BRUX. be kind enough to give me a few particulars as to the general scope of the work, the books necessary to read, and any other details we may deem of value to a candidate?

#### ANSWERS.

J. A. S.—There is, we believe, an establishment for the open-air treatment of consumption on the Mendip Hills. It is called Nordrach-upon-Mendip. An account of it by Dr. Rowland Thurnam, one of the physicians, was given in the *Practitioner* for July.

#### ELECTROLYSIS OF NEVUS.

CAPTAIN GEORGE BIDDE, F.R.C.S.E., I.M.S. (Berar, India) writes: With reference to "M.D. (Manchester's)" query as to the "best method of removing a small nevus on the bridge of the nose," I would recommend Dr. John Duncan of Edinburgh's method by electrolysis, a good and succinct account of which is given in *A Surgical Handbook* (by Caird and Catcart), page 177, 3rd edition.

#### REMOVAL OF SUPERFLUOUS HAIR.

CAPTAIN GEORGE BIDDE, F.R.C.S.E., I.M.S. (Berar, India) writes: In reply to "M.D. (Manchester's)" query in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of June 24th as to "means by which the hair on a young lady patient's upper lip can be removed," I would recommend the following depilatory: B Tinct. Iodi o.5, olei terebinth r.o, olei ricini r.5, alcohol r.o.o, colloidi 4.o.o.; M. Sig.: Apply twice daily. As the layer of collodion is peeled off the hairs come out with it (*Munch. med. Woch.*).

#### APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

A YOUNG PRACTITIONER.—A Board of Guardians offered certain terms to five public vaccinators; four accepted the terms, and one refused. The Local Government Board objected to the scale of fees, not because they considered them inadequate, but for a technical reason, and suggested certain others, which appear to have been offered to the public vaccinators, when the four again accepted, and the fifth, as before, declined them. The Board of Guardians determined the appointment of the one public vaccinator, A., and C. was appointed to the vacant post. As A. left his dispute to the decision of the Local Government Board, and then appears to have refused the terms suggested by the central authority, we do not see that C. is acting at all unfairly to A. in accepting the appointment.

#### NERIUM OLEANDER.

DR. J. BARKER SMITH (Herne Hill, S.E.) writes in answer to a question with regard to this plant: In *A General System of Botany*, by Le Maout and Decaisne, translated by J. D. Hooker, and thousand, page 551, Order Apocynæ, I read: "Oleander wood, flowers, and leaves are very poisonous; death has followed using its wood as meat skewers; an infusion of its leaves is an active insecticide, and its bark a rat poison." In Dorvault's *L'Officine*, under Nerium Oleander—"The Rosebay," page 579, I translate the following: "Leaves reputed narcotic; M. Landerer says salicin is present in the leaves and flowers. Infusions of the leaves in water or oil have been employed in skin affections (Dartres); the leaves powdered and mixed with lard have been employed as a remedy for the itch. It is poisonous. According to Lukomski the oleander contains two alkaloids—pseudo-curarine and oleandrine: the latter is an active poison. Another authority states that the plant contains a cardiac poison analogous to digitaline." I may add that I am sensitive to the action of an aconite plant in flower, and I have been obliged to remove such from outside my window on account of its depressing the action of my heart. The pulse falls from the exhaled aconitine. Digitalis in flower affects me in the same way.

#### NOTES, LETTERS, Etc.

ERRATUM.—In the third line of the postscript to the letter on Members, (R.C.S.) Gowns by Dr. Frederick H. Alderson which was published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 29th, p. 316, the word State should be "stole."

#### THE LAURIA FUND.

DR. JOHN H. BARRS (6, Wandsworth Bridge Road, S.W.) and Dr. EDWARD B. HARTNELL (4, Rycroft Street, Fulham, S.W.) write: In answer to Mr. Victor Horsley's appeal on behalf of the widow and children of the late Dr. Lauria in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 29th, we beg to say the following amounts have been received:

	£	s.	d.	Y. H. B.	...	...	£	s.	d.
Claud Worth	...	2	0	...	...	...	2	0	0
W. Domett Stone	...	1	10	...	...	...	1	10	0
K. W. M. ...	...	1	10	...	...	...	1	10	0
K. ...	...	0	10	...	...	...	0	10	0
Volens	...	1	10	...	...	...	1	10	0

#### TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER IN THE OPEN AIR.

X. writes: Is there any reason why scarlet-fever patients should not be treated in the open air, provided the weather be sufficiently warm, and means taken to prevent the scales being blown about? Small-pox patients have been said to get on better under canvas than in hospital. Might one not expect a similar result in the case of scarlatina? Has it ever been tried?

#### METALLIC MERCURY AS A MEANS OF ARRESTING HÆMORRHAGE.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CHARLES MONKS (I.M.S., European General Hospital, Aden) writes: I am not aware if the metal mercury has ever been used as a mechanical means of arresting hæmorrhages, but it seems to me that it is a substance easily lending itself to this purpose from its weight and consistence, and from the facility with which it can be run into cavities, deep wounds, etc., where the employment of other means of controlling bleeding is not readily applicable. It ought to be very effective in uterine hæmorrhages. I should be grateful to hear of any experiences in this connection.

#### LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, Etc., have been received from:

▲ Mr. H. Armstrong, Liverpool; Dr. F. Armitage, Leicester; Dr. C. M. Allan, Longton; Dr. F. H. Alderson, Bournemouth; Dr. F. A. Arnold, Bulawayo; Professor C. Addison, Sheffield; Ambulance. ■ Mr. W. L. Brown, London; Dr. Bevan, London; Mr. L. Bidwell, Devonport; Dr. O. A. Brown, London; Dr. L. H. Bryson, Derby; Dr. A. J. Bentley, Tunbridge Wells; Mr. G. H. Broadbent, Manchester; Mr. W. H. Battle, London; Mr. W. Bennett, St. John's Chapel, E.S.O.; Bookworm; Mr. C. Boyd, London; Mr. J. Beattie, Newcastle-on-Tyne; B.; Dr. J. H. Batterley, Doncaster; Dr. A. J. Boyd, Ware. © Mr. H. W. Cox, London; Mr. H. W. Colman, London; Dr. A. Cox, Gateshead; Dr. A. H. Cook, London; Mr. J. Caslaw, Bristol; O. G. S. M. Mr. E. F. W. Curry, London; Dr. J. Charles, Kilkee; Dr. W. Charley, Shrewsbury; Mr. J. H. Croudeas, Stafford; Dr. A. H. Davidson, London; Mr. J. Duggar, Gibraltar; Dr. R. A. Dove, London; Dr. W. Donovan, Birmingham; Dr. E. P. Davis, Philadelphia; Mr. J. Davies, Newtown; Dr. M. Dixon, Cheshunt; Dr. W. Darley-Hartley, Cape Town. ■ Mr. E. H. Ellison, Lynton; Mr. J. B. Endean, Cockington; Dr. E. A. Edelsten, London. ■ Mr. A. G. B. Fullerton, London; Mr. W. Fearnley, Harrogate; Dr. W. T. Freeman, Reading; Dr. N. E. Finsen, Copenhagen. © Dr. J. G. Glover, London; G. P.; Mr. F. Greaves, London; Dr. W. G. Ellis, Singapore; Miss F. Grove, London; Dr. C. M. Glem, Rutherglen; Mr. M. B. Gorman, Beekenham. ■ Mr. H. Hemsted, Whitechurch; Dr. Hertoghe, Antwerp; Mr. Victor Horsley, London; Mr. C. H. Hart, London; Dr. E. B. Hulbert, Windsor; Dr. S. Harris, Las Palmas; Mr. F. S. D. Hogg, Rickmansworth; Mr. A. Hughes, Manchester; Dr. L. Henry, Melbourne; Mr. S. O. Hall, Quetta; Hon. S. Holland, London; H. J. W. Dr. F. de H. Hall, London; Dr. J. Hislop, Blackford; H. S.; Mr. J. L. Hamilton, Brighton; Dr. G. A. Heron, London. ■ Messrs. Hentshal, Potzler and Co., London. Ignoramus. ■ J. G. B. C.; Dr. E. A. Johnson, Göttingen; Mr. J. E. James, London; Mr. E. F. Johns, Dublin; Dr. G. Jones, Lee. ■ Mr. C. W. Krohne, London; Dr. J. W. Keating, Ann Arbor, U.S.A.; Mr. H. A. Kynsey, London; Mr. W. G. King, London; Dr. S. J. Kirby, Fressingfield. ■ Professor E. K. Lankester, London; Mr. T. Laffan, Cashel. ■ Mr. T. McCormick, Cardiff; Mr. P. Mitchell, London; Dr. E. P. Manby, Liverpool; Dr. T. G. Macormack, Newport; Dr. C. E. Maguire, London; Dr. J. B. McLaren, Salford; Dr. A. D. McQueen, Old Hill; Dr. W. H. Mondale, Brighton; Dr. A. J. Morton, Huelon; Dr. R. Morton, Nenagh. ■ Mr. F. Norton, London; Mr. A. Neve, Kashmir; Mr. J. Neal, Birmingham; Mr. F. L. Nicholls, Fulbourn. © O'Connor Extension Company, London. ■ Dr. W. H. Finches, Cairo; Mr. F. J. W. Porter, Pertham Down; Dr. F. C. Palmer, Woking; Mr. F. Percival, Preston; Mr. E. F. Parry, London; Physician. ■ Dr. W. Renner, Sierra Leone; Mr. D. Rice, London; Mr. W. K. Hix, Southbourne; Mr. T. W. F. Romney, Derby; Mr. W. L. Rathven, Hull; Dr. J. E. Rosen, Stein, Bowley Begis; Rustie; R. S. Surgeon-Major Retired H.P.; Mr. A. W. Smith, Huddersfield; Dr. A. Stewart, Manchester; Mr. G. Simpson, London; Mr. W. W. Stoker, London; Mr. J. B. Smith, London; Dr. R. Sevestre, Leicester; Dr. W. S. Skyes, Gosport; Dr. A. Smart, Edinburgh; Dr. T. D. Savill, London; Mr. W. Smith, Warsaw; Dr. E. B. Selby, Port William; Mr. T. Smyth, Peddie, Cape Colony; Mr. H. Spokman, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. A. Southern, Derby; Dr. H. G. Smeeth, Stockport; Dr. A. J. Smith, Dublin. ■ Dr. W. H. Tate, London. ■ University of London, Registrar of London. ■ Mr. O. Webster, Halifax; Dr. J. K. Watson, Byfleet; Dr. F. B. Walters, London; Mr. A. S. Williams, Bath; Dr. W. H. Wigham, South Molton; Professor Wilson, Warwick; Dr. P. McK. O. Wilmot, London; Messrs. J. Wright and Company, Bristol; Mr. W. E. Watson, Hawkhead, Paisley; W. W. P.

#### BOOKS, Etc., RECEIVED.

Etudes des Arthropathies Tabétiques et de l'Influence des Nerfs Trophiques sur la Nutrition. Par J. A. Cree, M.B. Dub. Paris: Vigot Frères. 1899.

Medical Gymnastics, including the Schott (Nauheim) Movements. By A. V. Grafstrom, B.Sc., M.D. London: Scientific Press. 1899. 2s. 6d.

A Handbook of Sanitary Law. By E. B. Ham, M.B.C.S., L.B.C.P., D.P.H. London: Ash and Co. 1899. 1s. 6d.

The Principles of Bacteriology. By A. C. Abbott, M.D. Fifth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1899. 12s. 6d.

On Fractures and Dislocations. By Professor H. Hefferich. Translated from the Third Edition by J. Hutchinson, jun., F.R.C.S. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1899. 15s.

A Record of Indian Fevers. By Major D. B. Spencer, I.M.S. Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co., and London: W. Thacker and Co. 1899.

The Plague Inspector. By W. G. King, O.I.E., M.B., O.M., D.P.H., Lieutenant-Colonel I.M.S. Parts I and II. Madras: Addison and Co. 1899.

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