

OPERATIVE TREATMENT IN CHRONIC SYNOVITIS.

F.R.C.S. writes, in reply to "M.D." (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, August 26th): Aspiration of the joint, followed by firm pressure obtained by wool pads and a bandage, and the fitting of a "calliper" Thomas's knee splint, so that the patient can get about, is often a successful measure in such a case. Incision and washing out has been practised, but there is often a tendency to recurrence after this operation, though many cases are reported as cured.

SALINE INJECTIONS IN COLLAPSE.

R. D. S.—The following appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 28th, 1898, page 1663, in reply to a similar query: We are indebted to Mr. Arbuthnot Lane for the following: Introduce slowly through a cannula tied into a superficial vein, as the basilic, from two to five pints of normal saline solution (1 drachm of common salt to a pint of water) at 100° F., by means of a glass, or Higginson's, syringe, care being taken to avoid the entry of air. The vein so readily exposed by a long incision crossing its course obliquely. It is freed from the surrounding parts, and an opening is made in it sufficiently large to admit the cannula. The vein beyond the cannula is closed by a ligature. The surgeon must be guided by the condition of the patient in determining when he has injected enough fluid.

NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS, PARIS, 1900.

THE *Practitioner* for August contained some pertinent remarks about the forthcoming International Medical Congress which is to be held in Paris. The editor says: "On looking at the list of those who have so far promised to take part in the proceedings, one cannot fail to be struck not only by its extreme meagreness, but by the almost total absence of the representatives of general medicine, surgery and obstetrics. The dermatologists appear to be mustering in force, but where are the physicians and where are the surgeons? Mr. Treves is indeed a host in himself, and Mr. Mayo Robson may be trusted to hold his own against all comers in his own special field; but what are these among so many? British physic, though well represented in point of quality, is sadly deficient in quantity. Obstetric medicine is in a still worse condition, having only one champion, though a doughty one. Britannia's honour, in an obstetrical respect (to use the English of our medical parliament), is safe enough in the hands of Dr. Champneys; but are there no other knights of the forceps and speculum to do battle for her in the lists at *École de Médecine*? It will not be there as at Agincourt, 'the fewer men the greater share of honour.' Therefore, so far from obeying King Harry's behest and not wishing one man more, I should like to see all our country's best in every department of medical science and practice at the Congress. At Moscow there was but a handful of Britishers, *rari nantes in gurgite vasto*, while the Germans were present in big battalions, and their organisation was magnificent. Each chief went to the Congress 'with his tail on,' as they say in the Highlands; in other words, he was attended by a group of obsequious henchmen who played the part of a *claque* whenever he read a paper or made a speech. The whole Teutonic contingent was so well drilled that even the Russians were made to feel like outsiders, and the uncombined molecules of other nationalities could hardly even get near a buffet. This kind of military discipline is altogether repugnant to the British mind. But a little cohesion would not hurt us, and if we wish to make any figure in the gathering of the nations in the 'City of Light,' some organisation of our forces is absolutely necessary." The strictures of our lively contemporary are in many respects well founded, and although August, 1900, may still be in the womb of Time, it is already so well advanced in development that it is incumbent upon those who are willing to contribute to the work of the Congress at least to send in their names and the titles of their contributions to the sectional secretaries in Paris. There can be no doubt that the President and Secretaries of the Committee for Great Britain and Ireland will use their best endeavours to effect coherence if the opportunity be allowed them.

THE LAURIA FUND.

DR. JOHN H. BARRS (6, Wandsworth Bridge Road, S.W.) and Dr. E. B. HARTNELL (1, Rycroft Street, Fulham, S.W.) write: We beg to acknowledge the following further donations to the above fund:

	Amount previously acknowledged	£	s.	d.
Walter Jessop	13	2 0
S. W. Arundell	3	3 0
W. Hayward	1	1 0
W. H. Coke	2	2 0
P. Phelps	2	2 0
I.O.W.	0	10 6
Mr. F. Silles	2	2 0
Mr. J. Silles	1	1 0
Dr. Sutton	1	1 0

A CORRECTION.

DR. N. CARPENTER, M.R.C.S. (British Honduras), writes: In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 22nd appears a short report by me on "An unusually large liver abscess, etc." There is an error in the date, 1898 should be replaced by 1893 wherever 1898 appears.

EDUCATIONAL NUMBER: CORRECTIONS.

MISS E. WINIFFRED DICKSON, F.R.C.S.I. (Dublin) writes to say that the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway should have been enumerated among the medical schools at which women can study.

Dr. Thomas Carr (Blackpool) complains that in the section relating to English universities Durham is placed last. He maintains that Durham is entitled to rank after Cambridge and before London owing to the earlier date of its charter of incorporation.

Professor E. Waymouth Reid, Dean of the Medical Faculty, University College, Dundee, writes to point out that on p. 559 it was erroneously stated that the winter session of University College, Dundee, will begin on October 19th. The correct date is October 11th. In the list of bodies

granting a diploma in public health on p. 557, a cross reference to the information on this head given in p. 527 was accidentally omitted.

A FOURPENNY DOCTOR.

MR. FRANK TAYLOR, M.A., M.B. Cantab. (Lower Sydenham, S.E.) writes: In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 10th, p. 527, there has turned up again the 4d. doctor. He is of perennial recurrence, though sometimes he is a 6d. doctor. Still the principle is the same, and he is held up to the scorn and horror of his fellows. Personally, I have great sympathy for him, having pointed out repeatedly that the fault is not in him, but in those who force him to such methods. There is, indeed, a good deal to admire in his plucky assertion of his "right to exist," if he could get more than this 4d. or 6d. you may be quite certain that he would not rest content with this paltry sum. It is the so-called provident dispensaries and such-like that do it at this price, and as a general rule throw a carriage-and-pair in, so how is the "poor walking doctor" able to demand more? There is little doubt that his neighbourhood (that he probably paid a good price for the right of), like all working-class neighbourhoods, is envied, simply because of its ready money, by those who live on the fashionable outskirts and who could well afford to be perfectly riddled with dispensaries louted for by the parson and all the Sunday school teachers, and rendered still more attractive by having diverted to their use all the available charities of the parish, so that a patient has only to declare on his/her club to be immediately inundated with tickets (coal, tea, bread, and meat). This I boldly assert fixes the price at 4d. We shall never improve till we add to our motto, "Live and let live," and in the glorious evolution the fittest will survive.

ESCAPES OF GAS.

DR. R. R. RENTOUL (Liverpool) writes: Will you please state (1) the different general plans of testing for an escape of gas; (2) the plans for locating the escape?

* * * As we did not feel competent to answer these questions with any authority, we communicated with Mr. Fletcher (Warrington) who has been good enough to send the following reply: The only safe method is by the smell, and, with experience, this is the quickest. If a serious leak is suspected where it cannot be smelt, it can be detected by the movement of the small drum over the meter dial, which is marked to register single feet. If all the taps are closed and this drum still moves there is a leakage somewhere, but the finding of this is not always easy, even by the most experienced fitters, and it sometimes means relaying the whole service.

LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., have been received from:

A Messrs. Ayrton and Saunders, Liverpool. B J. W. Batterham, M.B., St. Leonards-on-Sea; J. Booth, M.B., Cork; Sir J. C. Browne, London; Miss A. M. Browne, London; T. A. Buck, M.B., Exeter; I. W. C. C. T. B., Mr. P. Carpenter, British Honduras; Dr. T. Barr, Blackpool; Mr. F. B. S. Cozens, Oakham; Dr. E. Cantley, London; Dr. J. Cotter, Cork; Dr. F. G. Clewlow, London; Dr. C. Colombo, Rome; D. Miss E. W. Dickson, M.D., Dublin; E. E. F. F. Mr. T. Fletcher, Warrington; Mr. H. Fox, London; F.R.C.S. G. Mr. J. H. Gough, Torquay; Mr. P. Gites, Letton; G. L. H.; Sir W. T. Gairdner, K.C.B., Glasgow. H F. J. Bicks, M.B., Funchal; Mr. E. T. D. Hamilton, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. W. M. Harman, Winchester; H. J. F. B.; Mr. A. M. Hawkes, Penally. I Dr. G. F. Inglott, Malta; Ignoramus; Messrs. J. G. Ingram and Son, London. J Dr. E. Jepson, London; Mr. T. S. James, London. K Mr. J. B. Kenny, Killeshandra; Messrs. Keys, Hitch, and Co., London; Dr. S. J. J. Kirby, Fressinfield. L Dr. W. Lamb, Birmingham; Dr. A. E. T. Longhurst, London; Mr. E. M. Littler, Southampton. M M. M. M.; Medicus; Mr. A. H. Milne, Liverpool; Dr. A. McGillivray, Dundee; Midlands; M.D.; M.B.; Mr. F. C. Melhado, London. N Mr. C. Ogle, London. P P. V.; P. V. for Twenty-Five Years; Mr. G. C. Peachey, Wantage. Q E. W. Reid, M.B., Duadee; Dr. E. Reailey, Ilberton. S Mr. P. S. C. Sekar, Triplicane; R. D. Shiels, M.B., Tiverton; Dr. R. B. Selby, Port-william. T F. Taylor, M.B., London; Mr. F. H. Turner, East Bergholt. W Dr. A. S. Wohlmann, Bath. X X. Y. Z., etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Notes on Folkestone. By A. E. Larking. Die mikroskopische Technik und Diagnostik in der gynäkologischen Praxis. Von Churchill, 1899. 1s. 6d. Dr. K. Abel. Zweite Auflage. Berlin: August Hirschwald 1899. M. 5. 60.
A Dictionary of Terms Used in Medicine and the Collateral Sciences. By the late R. D. Hoblyn, M.A., Oxon. Thirteenth Edition. Revised by John A. P. Price, B.A., M.D. Oxon. London: Whitaker and Co. 1899. 10s. 6d.
The Accuracy of Voluntary Movement. By R. S. Woodworth. London: Macmillan and Co. 1899.
Constipation and its Modern Treatment. By C. Herschell, M.D. Second Edition. London: H. J. Glaisner. 1899.
Traité de l'Appendicite. Par F. Leguen. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1899. Fr. 1.25.
Encyclopædie der Therapie. Herausgegeben von O. Liebreich. Dritter Band. 11 Abtheilung. Berlin: August Hirschwald. 1899.

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