

SMOKING IN HOSPITAL WARDS.

J. T. W. (Barrow-in-Furness).—The custom in regard to permitting smoking among patients in the wards varies in different hospitals. In some it is permitted every evening for a limited time even by those confined to bed, in others, probably in the majority, it is only permitted on special occasions, such as during Christmas festivities. Any objection that could be raised would probably have less force in respect of surgical than medical wards. The chief objection under the circumstances mentioned would probably arise from the individual discomfort of any particular patient who disliked smoke or smoking.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES.

G. P. (Hallaton).—There are no medical schools in Nevada, South Dakota, or Wyoming, but in Nebraska there is the Lincoln Medical College at Lincoln, and the Creighton Medical College and the Omaha Medical College of the University of Omaha, at Omaha.

THE DESTRUCTION OF WEEDS.

TENERIFFE writes: In answer to "G. P." in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 10th, p. 383, I beg to state that a saturated solution of sulphate of copper will kill weeds and prevent their reappearance for two years, in my experience.

LETTERS, NOTES, Etc.

EDUCATIONAL NUMBER; CORRECTIONS.

University of London.—A correspondent writes to point out that in the Educational Number of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, published on August 31st, the account of the subjects for the Matriculation Examination does not make it clear that a candidate may select a second optional language or an optional science, but not both.

University of Birmingham.—The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Windle, M.D., F.R.S., calls attention to the fact that the University of Birmingham is not mentioned among the places where women can receive medical education and degrees. The degrees and courses of instruction of the University are open to men and women alike.

University College, Sheffield.—The Dean of the Medical Department, Dr. W. T. Cocking, calls attention to the omission of the College from the list of institutions published at p. 561, in which lectures and laboratory instruction are given for the D.P.H., and from the list of dental schools published at p. 569.

[We have much pleasure in rectifying these accidental omissions.]

THE PROSPECTS OF THE PRACTITIONER.

ONE OF THE LESS FORTUNATE writes: Your optimistic article on "The Prospects of a Practitioner" contains a statement, a comparison, and an allusion that give an incorrect impression. It states that the Council has expressed disapproval of men taking office under "co-operative friendly societies." When did the Council condemn a mere union of clubs that does not tout for members and that does not put money in the pockets of laymen? You hold that such an appointment is slavery. Well, any doctor may be a slave to his patients; but that is his own look-out. You contrast the position of an assistant. The advantages of such a post depend upon the qualities of the parties to the contract. I have held that position, and have been medical officer to a club union. The latter position is preferable. One has regular work and really perfect independence. The few patients that are not considerate are easily taught to be so; night work hardly exists, and a message out of hours is rare. Other advantages are—no dispensing and a minimum of book-keeping. The position is not an ideal one, nor is that of the struggling practitioner without private means. It is not fair for your article later on to allude to "a commercial company." United clubs are not that.

A CASE OF ADDER BITE.

DR. J. GOOD (Stockport) writes: I should like to thank Mr. J. H. Watts for his report on a case of "adder" bite, and agree with Dr. Gerald Leighton (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, July 27th) that hitherto our literature upon the subject has been very meagre indeed. I am of opinion that it is the bounden duty of medical gentlemen to report as fully as possible all cases of unusual occurrence or interest. I cannot understand from Mr. Watts's letter how his patient was bitten on the tongue. I am aware that member bears an ill-Biblical-repute, and have been told that the "serpent" entertained an embodiment of His Satanic Majesty. Yet, I believe this was but a temporary arrangement, and I do not think would have any influence nowadays. I should like to hear how the bite occurred. Last month I received a "vipér" (I prefer this name) taken near Rugeley, Staffs, that would be, I think, within twenty miles of Burslem, where Mr. Watts's patient was bitten.

"A CASE IN WHICH TRACHEOTOMY WAS PERFORMED TWICE IN THE ADULT."

DR. J. STAVELEY DICK (Manchester) writes, with reference to a case which appeared under the above heading in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 20th, that the missing fragment of tube has been coughed up. It measures $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

IN a paragraph which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 24th, p. 459, it was stated that Mr. Peregrine Purvis had given £100 to the Royal Free Hospital. The amount of the donation was £1,000.

LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., have been received from

A Dr. C. MacA. Allan, Longton; Dr. F. H. Alderson, Bournemouth; Alpha; Dr. P. H. Abernethy, London; Dr. F. P. Atkinson, Kew; A. S. H.; Antitoxin; Brevet; Mr. G. R. Broadbent, Manchester; Mr. P. Y. Byrne, Chesterton; Borax Consolidated Limited, Manager of, London; Mr. L. A. Bidwell, London; Mr. H. B. Bell, London; Dr.

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BOOKS, Etc., RECEIVED.

- Lessons on Massage. By Margaret D. Palmer. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1901. 7s. 6d.
- Atlas and Epitome of Ophthalmoscopy and Ophthalmoscopic Diagnosis. By Dr. O. Haab. Edited by G. E. de Schweinitz, A.M., M.D. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1901. 13s.
- The Pathology and Treatment of Sexual Impotence. By V. G. Vecki, M.D. Third Edition. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1901. 8s.
- Bacteriology and Surgical Technique for Nurses. By E. M. A. Stoney, London: London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1900. 5s.
- Modern Obstetrics. By W. A. N. Dorland, A.M., M.D. Second Edition. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1901. 16s.
- Practical Surgery. By N. Senn, M.D., Ph.D., LL.D. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1901. 25s.
- The Science of Sex. By J. A. Godfrey. London: University Press. 1901. 10s.
- La Cellule et les Tissus. Par N. Lowenthal. Basle and Geneva: Georg and Co. 1901.
- Rhinology, Laryngology, and Otology, and their Significance in General Medicine. By E. P. Friedrich, M.D. Edited by H. Curtis, M.D. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1900. 10s.
- The Illustrated Medical Dictionary. By W. A. N. Dorland, A.M., M.D. Second Edition. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1901. 39s.
- La Peste Bubonique dans la République Argentine et au Paraguay. Rapport par Dr. L. Agote et Dr. A. J. Medina. Buenos Aires: P. Lajouane. 1901.
- Points of Practical Interest in Gynaecology. By H. Macnaughton-Jones, M.D., M.Ch.Q.U.I. Second Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1901. 4s. 6d.
- A Treatise on Materia Medica and Therapeutics. By R. Ghosh, L.M.S. Vol. I. Calcutta: Hilton and Co. 1901. 2s. 6d.
- Physical Measurements of the Sailor. By Staff-Surgeon C. M. Beadnell. London: John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson. 1901.
- Guide to the Microscopic Examination of the Eye. By Professor K. Greef. Translated from the Second German Edition by H. Walker, M.A., M.B., C.M. London: Rebbman, Limited. 1901. 5s.
- The Sanitation of British Troops in India. By Major E. C. Freeman, R.A.M.C. Second Edition. London: Rebbman, Limited. 1901. 2s. 6d.
- The Theory and Practice of Medicine. By H. W. Syers, M.A., M.D. Vol. I. London: Rebbman, Limited. 1901. 15s.
- The Life-History of British Serpents. By G. R. Leighton, M.D. London and Edinburgh: W. Blackwood and Sons. 1901.

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