LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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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.

Queries.

L.R.C.P. desires to hear of some device for warming very cold hands when visiting patients.

Answers.

Nemo.—There are two recent handbooks on operative surgery:

(1) A Manual of Operative Surgery. By H. J. Waring, M.S., M.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. (Henry Frowde, and Hodder and Stoughton.) (2) 12s. 6d. (2) The Students' Handbook of Surgical Operations. By Sir F. Treves and Jonathan Hutchinson, F.R.C.S. (Cassell.) For the purpose of examination the mentioned former might be the more useful.

Removal of Septum Nasal.

W. F. L. D. writes in reply to "Medical Sufferer": I had my septum nasal removed about three months back for nasal obstruction, which led to granular pharyngitis. There is no subsequent discomfort or deformity, and I do not now suffer from frequent sore throat. The operation was done under local anaesthesia (adrenalin and cocaine), and I was able to do my work the next day.

Septum writes: I had a good part of my septum nasal removed. No deformity has resulted, but wonderful comfort and increased capacity, mentally and physically. It was removed under cocaine. It was strange to watch a surgeon chiselling at one's face painlessly. The succeeding night was an unhappy one, as the feature was packed; that was all. I resumed work on the third day.

Letters, Notes, etc.

Warnings.

Messrs. Wilcox, Jozefic, and Co., Chemists, Haymarket, S.W., desire to warn members of the medical profession against a man, thinly built, apparently about 40 years of age, shabbily dressed, with a pronounced habit of sniffing, who has been representing himself as their agent and making extraordinary promises in their employ or has had any authority whatsoever to use their name.

Messrs. Radford and Frankland, Solicitors, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C., inform us that a person representing himself to be a partner in a firm of wholesale druggists carrying on business at 9, Minning Lane, E.C., has recently been calling on members of the medical profession with the object of selling a mineral water of which his firm are said to be the sole co-signers. This person represents himself to be the father of an assistant physician to one of the London hospitals, and by this representation (which is entirely untrue) endeavours to interest the medical profession in his article.

Malaria in India.

Dr. V. P. Gonsalves (London) writes: Your special correspondent, writing about the Simla Malarial Conference (British Medical Journal, November 13th, 1909, p. 1435) says that "much investigation still remains to be carried out," and experiments in lowering the malarial index require to be undertaken in every province under expert supervision, and the time seems to be ill-chosen for prohibiting any increase of the cadre of the Indian Medical Service. Sir, are there statements of fact and opinion which challenge a reply, and ought not to be allowed to pass without notice. I propose to do so, and to quote the writer of that article seems to imply that a failure to add to the ranks of the Indian Medical Service would cripple scientific investigation in India, and so allow many of the gaps which might be filled by adequate opposition. This opinion is based on the familiar assumption: (1) That unless a medical man is a member of the Indian Medical Service he cannot acquire expert knowledge in reference to medical matters concerning India. (2) That every officer of the Indian Medical Service who is appointed to the post of an expert in any branch is necessarily there to do the work of a medical man. The telegraphic foresworn in Lord Morley's dispatch, is that the existing system of serving all important posts for the officers of the Indian Medical Service has been the cause of great inefficiency, has led to the systematic exclusion of highly qualified and competent medical men from them, imposed an unnecessary expenditure of over £10,000 a year on the Indian revenue, and even rise as a legitimate discontent among the people. It is a great mistake to identify the interests of the Indian Medical Service with the best interests of India and its people.

Assistant Medical Officers of Asylums.

An A. M. O. of twelve years' standing writes: The letter from "V. S." (p. 1446) has induced me to write to draw your attention to the new draft regulations for training and examining asylum attendants. These regulations are to be considered at the next meeting of the Medical-Psychological Association in London on November 23rd. Rule 17, Subsection (b), reads as follows: "The viva voce examination shall be conducted by the superintendent and a qualified and impartial examiner after the written examination as can be arranged." I think that, in common fairness to that large class of hard-working men, the assistant medical officers of the Un瘋ed, a protest should be made at the meeting on November 23rd. Perhaps someышwishful member of the Medico-Psychological Association may see his way to move an amendment that the words "the superintendent" in above shall be replaced by the words "medical officer who has delivered the required course of lectures in every asylum where an examination is held." If this is done it will also prevent any one "fluking" through the examination, and an examination conducted by the teacher of a subject in association with an outside examiner is the nearest thing known to an ideal examination. The rule should not prevent a medical officer from being, the examiner if he has instructed his staff and prepared them for the examination.

Mr. Dooley on Prohibition.

Of a population of some 20,000,000 persons in the fourteen Southern States of the American Union, 17,000,000 are said to be under prohibitory law in some form or regard to alcohol. On this Mr. C. writes: On September 29th I was in the street in Dallas, Texas; in the sunny Southland 'tis as hard to get a drink now as it was last year not to get one. Why, Hinnisy, I meet you other day in Texas I used to ask you if you had not been in the State. A perfectly respectable an' innocent man, of good connections, while attemptin' to draw a revoler to plug an inny, was bastly shot down by th' rangers, who thought he was pullin' a pocket flask. Is no man's life safe against th' acts iv irresponsible officers iv th' law?" Is not.

Errata.—In Major G. H. Fink's note on Oriental Sore, in the Journal of November 13th, p. 1448, the following corrections should be made: in line 10, the word "10" should be "100"; in line 11, "Caid" should be "Caid"; and in line 38, "mac" should, of course, be "sore".

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