

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

### HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, 6,096 births and 4,658 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday last, July 27th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had risen from 14.8 to 17.9 per 1,000 in the four preceding weeks, further rose last week to 21.2 per 1,000. The rates in the several towns ranged from 9.7 in Croydon, 10.8 in Derby, 12.3 in Cardiff, and 12.4 in Halifax, to 30.0 in Birkenhead, 30.2 in Portsmouth, 31.7 in Sheffield, and 34.3 in Liverpool. In the thirty-two large provincial towns the mean death-rate was 23.2 per 1,000, and exceeded by 5.0 the rate recorded in London, which was 18.2 per 1,000. The zymotic death-rate in the thirty-three towns averaged 6.9 per 1,000; in London this death-rate was equal to 5.0 per 1,000, while it averaged 8.1 in the thirty-two provincial towns, among which the highest zymotic death-rates were 10.7 in West Ham and in Burnley, 11.7 in Leeds, 12.2 in Birkenhead, 13.7 in Portsmouth, 14.1 in Sheffield, and 17.1 in Liverpool. Measles caused a death-rate of 1.1 in Birmingham, 1.4 in Gateshead, 1.6 in West Ham, and 2.3 in Birkenhead; whooping-cough of 1.1 in Sunderland, 1.3 in Brighton, and 1.7 in Swansea; and diarrhoeal diseases of 7.6 in Nottingham and in Gateshead, 7.7 in Manchester, 7.8 in Preston, 8.5 in West Ham, 9.4 in Birkenhead, 9.6 in Burnley, 10.8 in Leeds, 12.4 in Sheffield, 13.2 in Portsmouth, and 16.1 in Liverpool. In none of the thirty-three towns did the death-rate from scarlet fever or from "fever" reach 1.0 per 1,000. The 68 deaths from diphtheria in the large towns included 28 in London, 5 in Sheffield, and 4 in Salford. No fatal case of small-pox was registered either in London, or in any of the thirty-two large provincial towns. The number of small-pox patients under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals on Saturday last, July 27th, was 11, against numbers increasing from 1 to 14 on the five preceding Saturdays; 2 new cases were admitted during the week, against 2, 6, and 5 in the three preceding weeks. The number of scarlet fever patients in these hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital, which had been 2,018 and 2,007 at the end of the two preceding weeks, had risen again to 2,974 on Saturday last; 374 new cases were admitted during the week, against 363, 324, and 371 in the three preceding weeks.

### HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday last, July 27th, 988 births and 567 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 19.0, 18.4, and 17.2 per 1,000 in the three preceding weeks, rose again last week to 17.8 per 1,000, but was 3.4 per 1,000 below the mean rate during the same period in the thirty-three large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the death-rates ranged from 14.2 in Aberdeen and 15.1 in Dundee to 22.8 in Leith and 22.9 in Greenock. The zymotic death-rates in these towns averaged 4.2 per 1,000, the highest rates being recorded in Leith and Greenock. The 271 deaths registered in Glasgow included 11 from measles, 4 from scarlet fever, 5 from whooping-cough, and 56 from diarrhoea. Three fatal cases of whooping-cough and 11 of diarrhoea were recorded in Edinburgh. Five deaths from measles and 11 from diarrhoea occurred in Dundee; and 8 from diarrhoea in Leith, 5 in Paisley, and 5 in Greenock.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

PROFESSOR M'CORMICK, of Dundee University College, has been appointed Secretary of the Carnegie Trust, at a salary of £800 per annum.

LEGACY TO ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—By the will of the late Miss Malcolm, sister of Sir James Malcolm of Balbedie, a sum of £4,000 has been bequeathed to St. Andrews University for the purpose of establishing medical bursaries or scholarships.

EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY.—At their meeting on Monday, July 8th, the Managers of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary appointed Dr. Dawson Turner Medical Electrician to that institution, *vice* Dr. Milne Murray, resigned. Dr. Hope Fowler was at the same time appointed Assistant Medical Electrician.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF DISEASE IN CHILDREN.—At the annual general meeting of this Society, held in London on July 26th, Dr. A. E. Sansom in the chair, it was stated that during the past session the membership had increased from 102 to 237 members. A volume of reports will be issued shortly. The following office-bearers were elected at the meeting: Drs. Henry Armstrong, Henry Ashby, Fletcher Beach, James Carmichael, Edmund Cautley, Wayland Chaffey, Leonard Guthrie, Robert Hutchison, Charles Macalister, John McCaw, Lewis Marshall, Ernest Sansom, George Shuttleworth, George Sutherland, Frederick Taylor, James Taylor, Charles Willey, and Dawson Williams, and Messrs. Watson Cheyne, Walter Edmunds, Francis Jaffrey, Robert Jones, Betham Robinson, and Alfred H. Tubby were appointed

members of the Council. Mr. R. Clement Lucas was appointed Honorary Treasurer, and Mr. Sydney Stephenson, Dr. George Carpenter, and Dr. Theodore Fisher Honorary Secretaries.

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:

- AYR COUNTY HOSPITAL.—House Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum, with residence, board, and washing. Applications to the Secretary by August 7th.
- BETHNAL GREEN INFIRMARY, Cambridge Road, N.E.—First Assistant Medical Officer; unmarried. Salary at the rate of £150 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications, on forms provided, to be sent to the Medical Superintendent by August 5th.
- BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY.—Resident Surgeon; unmarried. Salary, £150 per annum, and allowance of £20 per annum for cab hire, with furnished rooms, etc. Applications to the Secretary by September 9th.
- BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SKIN AND URINARY HOSPITAL.—Surgical Assistant. Honorarium at the rate of 50 guineas per annum. Applications to the Secretary.
- BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY.—Assistant Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, rations, etc. Applications, on forms provided, to be sent to the Clerk to the Guardians, Parish Office, Edmund Street, Birmingham, by August 10th.
- BRADFORD POOR-LAW UNION.—Second Assistant Medical Officer for the Hospital and Workhouse; unmarried. Salary, £100 per annum, with prescribed rations, apartments, and washing. Applications to the Clerk to the Guardians, 22, Manor Row, Bradford, by August 15th.
- BRECON INFIRMARY.—Resident House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with residence, board, etc. Applications to Secretary by August 14th.
- BRIDGWATER INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to the Honorary Secretary.
- BRIGHTON, HOVE, AND SUSSEX THROAT AND EAR HOSPITAL.—Non-resident House-Surgeon. Appointment for six months. Salary at the rate of £75 per annum. Applications to Secretary.
- BREIDGENGAL HOSPITAL.—Casualty Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to Secretary by August 7th.
- BUXTON DEVONSHIRE HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with furnished apartments, board, and washing. Applications, endorsed "Assistant House-Surgeon," to be sent to the Secretary.
- CANTERBURY KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £60 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications to Secretary by August 8th.
- CARDIFF INFIRMARY.—Honorary Anesthetist. Applications, endorsed "Anesthetist," to be sent to the Secretary by August 5th.
- CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Victoria Park, E.—Second House-Physician. Appointments for six months. Salary at the rate of £80 per annum, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to the Secretary by August 6th.
- COLCHESTER, EXETER AND COLCHESTER HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to the Secretary by August 30th.
- DENBIGH DENBIGHSHIRE INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum to commence, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to the Secretary.
- DENBIGH NORTH WALES COUNTIES LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Second Assistant Medical Officer. Salary commencing at £120 per annum, rising to £160, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to the Clerk to the Visiting Committee by August 15th.
- DEVONPORT ROYAL ALBERT HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Appointment for six months. Salary at the rate of £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the Chairman of the Medical Committee.
- DUDDLEY GUEST HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Appointment for six months. Salary at the rate of £40 per annum, with residence, board, and washing. Applications to the Secretary by August 8th.
- EDINBURGH CRAIGLEITH POORHOUSE AND HOSPITAL.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary at the rate of £100 per annum, with board and apartments. Applications to the Clerk, Parish Council Chambers, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, by September 2nd.
- EXMINSTER DEVON COUNTY ASYLUM.—Third Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £125 per annum, with board, residence, etc. Applications to Medical Superintendent.
- HULL ROYAL INFIRMARY.—(1) Casualty Officer. (2) Junior Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board and lodging in each case. Applications to the Chairman of the House Committee.
- IPSWICH EAST SUFFOLK AND IPSWICH HOSPITAL.—Second House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to Secretary.
- ISLINGTON PARISH.—Dentist for the Schools at Hornsey Road. Salary, £20 per annum. Applications to the Clerk, Guardians' Offices, St. John's Road, Upper Holloway, N., by August 15th.
- LINCOLN COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Appointment for six months, but eligible for re-election. Honorarium £25 for six months, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to the Secretary by August 14th.
- LIVERPOOL EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.—Out-patient Assistant and Pathologist. Applications to the Secretary by August 30th.
- NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—Male Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodgings, and laundry. Applications to the Secretary.
- NOTTINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY.—Assistant Resident Surgeon; unmarried. Salary, £100 per annum, increasing by £10 yearly, with furnished apartments, etc. Applications to the Secretary, Mr. M. I. Preston, Journal Chambers, Nottingham.
- OXFORD COUNTY.—Medical Officer of Health for the combined districts. Salary, £750 per annum. Applications to Mr. A. G. Higgs, Solicitor, Woodstock, by August 14th.
- PRESTON ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £60 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the Secretary by August 8th.
- ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, Southwark, S.E.—(1) House-Surgeon. Salary, 50 guineas per annum, with board and residence. (2) Clinical Assistants. Applications to the Secretary for (1) by August 31st.
- RUBERY HILL ASYLUM, Burnt Green, Worcestershire.—Junior Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £131 per annum, with board, furnished apartments, etc. Applications to the Medical Superintendent.
- SHEFFIELD ROYAL INFIRMARY.—(1) Senior Assistant House-Surgeon. (2) Junior Assistant House-Surgeon. (1) Salary, £80 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. (2) Salary, £70 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to Secretary by August 17th.
- SHERWSBURY SALOP INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, washing, and residence. Applications to the Board of Directors.
- SOUTHAMPTON ROYAL SOUTH HANTS AND SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL.—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with rooms, board, and washing. Applications to Secretary.
- STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY ASYLUM.—Junior Assistant Medical Officer; unmarried, and under 30 years of age. Salary, £150 per annum, with board, lodging, etc. Applications to the Medical Superintendent.
- SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.—Professorship of Pathology, not more than 40 years of age. Salary, £200 per annum, and £100 allowed for passage expenses. Applications to the Agent-General for New South Wales, 2, Victoria Street, London, S.W., by September 14th.

**TAUNTON AND SOMERSET HOSPITAL.**—Assistant House-Surgeon. Appointment for six months. Salary at the rate of £20 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to Secretary.

**TOTTENHAM HOSPITAL, N.**—Senior Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £30 per annum, with board, residence, and laundry. Applications to the Chairman of the Joint Committee by August 15th.

**TRURO: ROYAL CORNWALL INFIRMARY.**—House-Surgeon; unmarried. Salary, £120 per annum, increasing by £10 a year, with board and apartments. Applications to the Secretary.

**WAKEFIELD: CLAYTON HOSPITAL AND WAKEFIELD GENERAL DISPENSARY.** Junior House-Surgeon; unmarried. Salary, £30 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the Honorary Secretary by August 7th.

**WELLS: SOMERSET AND BATH LUNATIC ASYLUM.**—Medical Superintendent. Salary commencing £250 per annum, with furnished house and allowances. Applications to the Clerk to the Visiting Committee by August 6th.

**WEST BROMWICH DISTRICT HOSPITAL.**—Resident Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and attendance. Applications to the Secretary.

**WEST BROMWICH UNION.**—Assistant Medical Officer for the Workhouse and Infirmary; unmarried. Salary, £125 per annum and £100 per annum in lieu of apartments, board, and allowances, endorsed "Assistant Medical Officer," to be sent to the Clerk by August 10th.

**WEST HAM HOSPITAL, Stratford, E.**—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £75 per annum, with board, residence, etc. Applications to Secretary.

**WHITEHAVEN AND WEST CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY.**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £125 per year, and £30 for dispensing, with furnished apartments and attendance. Applications to the Secretary by August 10th.

**WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL.**—(1) Assistant House-Surgeon. (2) Assistant House-Physician. Appointment for six months. Remuneration at the rate of £75 per annum will be given with board, lodging, and washing in each case. Applications to Secretary by August 15th.

**WOLVERHAMPTON EYE INFIRMARY.**—House-Surgeon. Appointment for twelve months. Salary, £70 per annum, with rooms, board, and washing. Applications to Secretary by August 15th.

**WOBURN GENERAL INFIRMARY.**—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to the Secretary by August 5th.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

**ALLEN, W. T. D., M.B., B.Ch., R.U.I.**, appointed Medical Officer for the 4th District of the Parish of Liverpool, *vice* S. Caldwell, M.R.C.S., resigned.

**BARNES, E. W., L.R.C.P.I., L.F.P.S.Glasg.**, appointed District Medical Officer to the Liverpool Union, *vice* Dr. Caldwell, resigned.

**BUCK, A. H., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.**, appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Brighton, Hove, and Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital.

**BURGESS, Arthur H., F.R.C.S. Eng., M.B., Ch.B., M.Sc. Viet.**, appointed Surgical Officer and Medical Superintendent of the Manchester Cancer Pavilion and Home.

**HOLLIS, H., M.D.**, appointed Medical Officer for the Wellborough District and the Workhouse of the Wellborough Union; also Vaccination Officer, *vice* W. W. Clark, M.D., resigned.

**HUCHISON, A. J., M.A., M.B., C.M.**, appointed Honorary Assistant-Surgeon to the Brighton, Hove, and Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital.

**JOHNSON, Alice Vowe, L.R.C.P. & S. Edin., L.S.A. Lond., M.D. Brux.**, appointed Junior Medical Officer to the Joint Counties Asylum, Carmarthen.

**MACMURCHY, Helen, M.D. Toronto**, appointed a Resident Medical Assistant to the General Hospital, Toronto, Canada.

**MARTINEAU, A. J., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.**, appointed Honorary Assistant-Surgeon to the Brighton, Hove, and Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital.

**MEADE, J. W., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.E.**, appointed Assistant Resident Surgeon to Nottingham General Dispensary.

**ROBIN, George A., M.B., Ch.B., M.P.C.**, late Senior Assistant Cumberland and Westmorland Asylum, Carlisle, appointed Senior Assistant, Dorset County Asylum, Dorchester, in place of Dr. Davidson, resigned.

**SEWCLAIR, Miss A. B., M.B., Ch.B.**, appointed Resident House-Surgeon to the Carlisle Dispensary, *vice* Dr. Bower, resigned.

**SMITH, T. Rudolph, M.B., F.R.C.S.**, appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Stockton and Thornaby Hospital.

**TAUNTON, J. Godfrey C., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.**, appointed Honorary Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

**THOMSON, St. Clair, M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng.**, appointed Assistant Physician for Diseases of the Throat to King's College Hospital.

**TREVIS, Edward, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.**, appointed Honorary Consulting Surgeon to the Brighton, Hove, and Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital.

**WARD, Wilfrid B., M.D., M.R.C.P.**, appointed Assistant-Physician to the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars, London.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

*The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 3s. 6d., which sum should be forwarded in post-office orders or stamps with the notice not later than Wednesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.*

#### BIRTHS.

**CALEY.**—On July 29th, at Colville House, Ealing, the wife of Guthrie Neville Caley, M.D., M.S., of a son.

**EDWARDS.**—On July 29th, at 34, Peckham Road, the wife of Francis H. Edwards, M.D., M.R.C.P., of a son.

**LYDALL.**—On July 25th, at Clifton, 68, City Road, Birmingham, the wife of W. Tracy Lydall, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of a son.

**MOORE.**—On July 24th, at 22, Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin, the wife of George A. Moore, M.D., Captain R.A.M.C., of a son.

#### MARRIAGES.

**LANGWELL-HOLMES.**—At the Parish Church, Alcastor Malbis, York, on July 27th, by the Rev. J. R. Kehle, Hamilton Grange Lane, York, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., J. Hermitage Place, Leith, to Amy, third daughter of the late George Julius Holmes, York.

**STARR-FROUDE.**—On July 29th, at Marylebone Parish Church, by the Rev. Cecil Wood, Esq., Canon of Ely, to Miss Mary Anne Starr, of 57, Queen Anne Street, W., eldest son of William Henry Starr, of Ilfracombe, to Emma Langworthy, daughter of the late James Henry Froude, of Newent, Gloucester.

#### DEATHS.

**KERRICK-JONES.**—July 26th, at Bronheulog, Llanrhafar, Oswestry, suddenly of syncope, Mary, the beloved wife of J. Kerrick-Jones, L.R.C.P. & S.E., L.F.P.S.G. Deeply regretted. Interred at Llanrhafar July 30th.

**MUNCASTER.**—July 19th, at The Mount, Halifax, James Hannay Muncaster, B.A. Cantab., M.B. Lond.

**SCOWROPE.**—On July 10th, 1901, at his residence, Oakleigh Great Lever, Bolton, John Edwin Scowrope, M.D., Mayor of Bolton, Surgeon-Captain 2nd V.B. L. M. L. Regiment. Aged 56 years.

**WOOD.**—On July 25th, aged 34 years, Joseph Wood, M.D., B.S. Durh., of Etta House, Liversedge, second son of Mr. Albert Wood, of Blackpool (late of Oldham), and the dearly beloved husband of Margaret H. Wood, only daughter of the late Mr. William Edward Taylor, of Newcastle.

## LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 1, Agar Street, Strand, W.C. London. Those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 42b, Strand, W.C. London.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone, unless the contrary be stated.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Manager, 42b, Strand, W.C., on receipt of proof.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look at the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

MANUSCRIPTS FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THIS JOURNAL CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RETURNED.

IN order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL, and not at his private house.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, London*. The telegraphic address of the MANAGER of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, London*.

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.

N. S. wishes to know of a country cottager competent to take in a bed-ridden man. S.W.R. or G.W.R. if possible.

SERUM writes: Can any reader give me any information regarding "Haemosepsin," and how it is used?

SALIX NIGRA asks if anyone can tell him of a substitute for salicylate of soda—a drug reasonable in price, capable of producing all the antirheumatic and antiseptic effects of the soda salt, and yet free from its disagreeable sweet taste, nauseating effects, and dangerous impurities.

SPES would be very glad to hear, through the medium of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, of any suitable institutions, preferable in the neighbourhood of Lincolnshire, for a poor patient suffering from phthisis. A fee such as £2 2s. a week, which appears to be the minimum of those sanatoria advertised in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, would be prohibitive in this case.

XENOPHON would be glad if any member will kindly inform him where a simple soft wire or other nostril dilator may be obtained. It is required for a patient whose alae nasi fall inwards like valves during respiration, thus necessitating mouth breathing. But for this there is plenty of room in the nostrils. Also, could suitable chin-straps be obtained at the same place to keep the mouth shut?

### TREATMENT OF POLYMYOSITIS.

AJAX would like advice in treatment from any brother practitioner who has had experience of polymyositis. His patient, a lady, had an attack of arthritis commencing last summer. The attack proved very resistant to treatment, and lasted six months or more. The baths of Droitwich, hot-air treatment, rubbings, massage, and other remedies seemed of very doubtful value. The arthritis during the last three months has been in abeyance, but occasionally during the attack various muscles became much enlarged, very tender and painful, and at present this condition is the chief symptom. The arms are bandaged, and various drugs have been used with no marked benefit. The symptom is well described in recent literature, but treated is carefully excluded.

### ANSWERS.

#### MOSQUITOS, MALARIA, AND THE CASTOR-OIL PLANT.

DR. STANFORD HARRIS (Gümar, Teneriffe) writes: In answer to the query re mosquitos and castor-oil plant, in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for June 15th, p. 1527, I beg to state that although the plant grows in this island mosquitos are not uncommon, although by no means the pest they are in tropical countries.

#### DAVIDSON'S OPTOMETER IN GENERAL PRACTICE.

M.D. writes: In reply to "R. W.," I have used Davidson's optometer during the past four or five years, and I find it to be all that the inventor claims for it. I knew nothing of the subject before I had the instrument, but after two lessons from Mr. Davidson, careful reading of his book of instructions, and a little practice I soon became able to correct the more ordinary errors of refraction.

#### CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING.

SETON.—The literature relating to carbon monoxide poisoning is of a very considerable extent, but the most recent information is contained in the following papers and books: *Report of the Water-gas Committee, 1899*; *Report by Professor Le Neve Foster on the Snafell Mine Disaster*; *Report by Dr. Haldane on the Causes of Death in Colliery Explosions, 1896* (these Parliamentary papers can be obtained from Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, E.C.); series of papers by Haldane, *Journal of Physiology*, 1895-1900; Lorrain Smith, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, 1899, i. p. 780; Sachs, *Die Kohlenoxyd-Vergiftung*, 1900; Mosso, *La Respirazione nelle Gallerie e l'Azione dell'Ossido di Carbone*, 1900.

#### FORMALIN AS A PRESERVATIVE.

W. T. G. asks if formalin is dangerous when used as a food preservative, and, if not, in what proportion it might be added, say, to milk?

\*.\* Professor Halliburton concluded, from experiments (published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, July 7th 1900 p. 2) conducted *in vitro*,