

THE ADVERTISING OF SANATORIA.

SAN.—We would refer our correspondent to a note published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for December 2nd, 1899. As the German and Swiss sanatoria are very freely advertised it would place English institutions of the same kind at a serious disadvantage if the line were drawn too tightly. We agree that a concert programme is not the best medium for such an advertisement.

THE OBLIGATIONS OF A *LOCUM TENENS*.

INTEGRITY.—(1) The rule has been laid down over and over again in this column that a substitute or *locum tenens* must not in any case supersede his principal in the treatment of the case, but it will not do to press such a rule so far as to preclude the substitute from ever afterwards, that is in a subsequent illness, seeing the patient if asked to do so. (2) It is unwise to pay "friendly" visits to a patient under the care of another practitioner. Such visits are undesirable, as they are sure to give rise to misunderstandings.

AN ACCOUNTING QUESTION.

D.—A. should be entirely guided by the advice of his solicitor in this matter. Apparently A.'s only remedy is against the accountant, but to succeed in any action against him it would be necessary to prove culpable negligence, and it might be very difficult to do so.

ASSISTANCE IN MIDWIFERY OPERATIONS.

A. T.—The answer applies only to cases in which the patient is not in a position to pay more than one fee. Where the patient can and is willing to pay an extra fee, this should be done in all cases.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

Examiners.—Dr. D. MacAlister and Dr. E. C. Perry have been appointed additional Examiners for the Third M.B., and Dr. Barclay-Smith for the Second M.B. Examination.

Degrees.—At the Congregation on December 4th Mr. E. R. Hunt, M.A., Trinity, and Mr. J. M. Cowan, B.A., King's, were admitted Doctors of Medicine.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The Brown Animal Sanatory Institution.

At the last meeting of the Senate of the University of London the resignation of Dr. J. Rose Bradford of the position of Professor-Superintendent of the Brown Animal Sanatory Institution was received. A resolution thanking Dr. Bradford for his able management of the Institution for the last six years was adopted.

The Physiological Laboratory.

The Principal reported that he had received through Dr. Waller a cheque of £1,000 from Mr. G. W. Palmer, M.P., towards the formation of a fund for the permanent endowment of the Physiological Laboratory. A vote of thanks to Mr. Palmer for his generous gift was adopted.

Matriculation.

It was resolved to accept as tests for fitness for admission of students to the University the diplomas of (1) the Scotch Leaving Certificate, provided that the candidate had passed in the higher or honours grade in all the subjects required by the regulations for the Matriculation Examination on one and the same occasion; (2) the German *Abiturienten Examen* in a *Gymnasium* or *Real Gymnasium*.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In seventy-six of the largest English towns, including London, 7,736 births and 4,908 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday last, December 6th. The annual rate of mortality, which had been 17.4, 16.9, and 19.1 per 1,000 in the three preceding weeks, declined again last week to 17.2 per 1,000. The rates in the several towns ranged from 6.6 in Coventry, 7.7 in Kings Norton, 7.9 in Hastings, 9.0 in Hornsey, 9.4 in Handsworth, 9.6 in Leyton, 10.1 in Great Yarmouth, and in Leicester, and 10.2 in Wallasey, to 22.1 in West Bromwich, 22.3 in Wolverhampton, 22.9 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, 23.0 in St. Helens and in Tynemouth, 23.2 in Hull, 24.2 in South Shields and 25.5 in Liverpool. In London the rate was equal to 17.1 per 1,000, while it averaged 17.2 in the seventy-five other large towns. The death-rate from the principal infectious diseases averaged 2.0 per 1,000 in the seventy-six large towns; in London this death-rate was equal to 1.5 per 1,000, while it averaged 2.2 in the seventy-five other large towns, among which the highest rates were 3.8 in West Ham and in Newport (Mon.), 4.0 in West Hartlepool, 4.2 in Hanley, 4.4 in Liverpool, 5.2 in Bootle, 5.3 in Hull, 6.0 in Tynemouth, and 7.1 in South Shields. Measles caused a death-rate of 1.6 in Salford, 2.2 in Cardiff, 2.4 in Liverpool, 3.0 in Tynemouth, and in Newport (Mon.), 3.2 in West Hartlepool, 3.5 in Bootle, 3.8 in Hull, and 5.6 in South Shields; scarlet fever of 1.2 in St. Helens, 1.4 in Gateshead, 1.6 in Warrington, 1.8 in Bolton, and 2.2 in Stockport; diphtheria of 1.3 in Rhondda, 1.4 in Bristol, and 2.7 in Bury; whooping-cough of 1.4 in Hornsey and in Norwich; "fever" of 1.1 in Sunderland and diarrhoea of 1.8 in Northampton, 2.0 in Tynemouth, and 2.2 in Merthyr Tydfil. Of the 7 fatal cases of small-pox registered in these towns last week, 4 belonged to Liverpool, and one each in Bury, Oldham,

Blackburn, Leeds, and Merthyr Tydfil. There were 17 cases of small-pox under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals on Saturday, December 6th, against 11, 14, and 17 on the three preceding Saturdays; 6 new cases were admitted during last week, against 2, 6, and 4, in the three preceding weeks. The number of scarlet fever patients in these hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital, which had been 2,339, 2,768 and 2,761 at the end of the three preceding weeks, had further declined to 2,680 at the end of last week; 265 new cases were admitted during the week, against 285, 249, and 362 at the end of the three preceding weeks.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday last, December 6th, 925 births and 599 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 16.4, 15.7, and 20.0 per 1,000 in the three preceding weeks, declined again to 18.5 last week, but was 1.3 per 1,000 above the mean rate during the same period in the seventy-six large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the death-rates ranged from 14.9 in Aberdeen and 17.2 in Leith, to 19.7 in Greenock and 21.8 in Dundee. The mean death-rate from the principal infectious diseases averaged 2.0 per 1,000 in these towns, the highest rates being recorded in Glasgow and Paisley. The 283 deaths registered in Glasgow included 2 from measles, 4 from scarlet fever, 7 from diphtheria, 11 from whooping-cough, 7 from "fever," and 10 from diarrhoea. Two fatal cases of diphtheria and 2 of diarrhoea were recorded in Edinburgh. Four deaths from diarrhoea occurred in Dundee; 3 from whooping-cough, and 2 from diarrhoea in Aberdeen; and 3 from scarlet fever in Paisley.

IRISH DISPENSARY DOCTORS' SALARIES.

If in the South of Ireland dispensaries are going begging for lack of candidates, such does not appear to be the case in the province of Ulster, for we observe from a report of a recent meeting of the Lisburn Board of Guardians, at which it was proposed to increase the salary of the medical officer of Saintfield Dispensary from £75 to £100 per annum, it was stated by a guardian that the Board had recently appointed two medical officers, at a salary of £75 each, and there was no dearth of candidates for either appointment. He (Mr. M'Harg) did not say whether the salary was sufficient remuneration for medical gentlemen, but the fact remained that the medical gentlemen themselves, when applying for appointments, seemed to consider it sufficient. He therefore opposed the increase, which was rejected by 33 votes to 6. It appears to us that the improvement of the Poor-law service must come, if it ever comes, from within. We recognize the temptation to junior members of an overstocked profession to catch at any appointment offering a chance of a competence, and youth is generally sanguine, while the efforts of those already in the service to restrict the supply are regarded by candidates with natural suspicion, but if the Poor-law medical officers would unite and show a bold and determined front, much could be done to improve their position.

SANITATION IN DURHAM.

We learn from the *Durham County Advertiser* that at the December meeting of the Town Council of Durham, Alderman Jepson, M.D., drew attention to the recent criticisms respecting the need for better dwellings for the working classes in the city. Having referred to the various attempts made in the past to deal with the "slums" of Durham, Dr. Jepson drew attention to three points which affected the radical solution of the question. In the first place, the Corporation was unable to borrow money and erect better dwellings, as there was at present a heavy rate, owing to the new sewage scheme. Secondly, if 100 houses were built at once, the slums would not be removed, as vacancies in such property would soon be filled up, owing to the continual passing of the vagrant and tramp class. In the third place, Dr. Jepson considered that the maladministration of organized charity was in part the cause of the creation and maintenance of slum property. The Deputy Mayor, who followed Dr. Jepson, considered that Durham was not so bad as some people tried to make out, and that the problems referred to were not more acute than elsewhere.

PLUMBERS AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

DR. FARQUHARSON, M.P., presented the prizes to the successful students in the plumbing classes at the Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, on December 2nd, and in a subsequent address expressed the opinion that a great necessity existed for the registration of plumbers. He observed that the Bill had already passed the House of Lords, and regretted that the House of Commons had not yet agreed to place the registration system upon a statutory basis. He thought the reply of the President of the Local Government Board to the recent deputation very encouraging, for it was satisfactory to know that the principle had his warm approval and support.

R. A. N.—It is to be regretted that all practitioners do not vaccinate according to the instructions issued by the Local Government Board to public vaccinators.

A. B.—We understand that it is not usual for the medical officer of health to make any charge for filling up and returning such a certificate as that to which our correspondent refers. Circumstances might, of course, alter the case. But, as a rule, all that is required is to ascertain from the returns whether or not any notifiable disease has occurred in the house in question. This the medical officer of health could readily determine.

DR. LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN, who has just been elected Governor of Rhode Island, is a member of the medical profession. He was born at Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1841, and is a graduate of Amherst College, in the class of 1864, and of the Harvard Medical School in 1867. Dr. Garvin was elected on the Democratic ticket.

MEDICAL NEWS.

MR. L. SWORN, of Epsom College, has been elected to a mathematical scholarship at New College, Oxford.

THE National Sanatorium for Consumption at Bournemouth has received a donation of £100 from the King.

PROFESSOR A. E. WRIGHT requests us to state that communications on the subject of typhoid vaccination and applications for typhoid vaccine may be addressed to him at the Pathological Laboratory, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, W.

It is announced that Sir William J. Collins, M.D., has been selected as the candidate of the University of London Liberal Association at the election which will be caused by the retirement of Sir Michael Foster.

MR. EDWARD EAST, F.R.C.S., desires to state that he will be glad again this winter to receive clothing suitable for persons, men and women, who may apply to the British Medical Benevolent Fund for assistance. Packages may be sent to Mr. East, 26, Linden Gardens, W.

It is announced that Professor Isidor Neumann, having reached the academic age limit, will retire from the chair of dermatology in the University of Vienna at the end of the present year. Professor Franz Mracek has already been appointed as his successor.

AMONG other recent contributions to the Cancer Research Fund administered by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons are £1,000 from Mr. Charles D. Rudd, £100 from Messrs. J. and A. Friedlander, £50 from the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers, and £25 from Mr. Robert Littlejohn.

THE office of Professor-Superintendent of the Brown Animal Sanatory Institution, which is under the direction of the University of London, is vacant, owing to the resignation of Professor J. Rose Bradford, F.R.S. Candidates for the appointment can obtain further information from the Secretary, 149, Wandsworth Road, S.W. The salary is £250 per annum.

THE OATH WITH UPLIFTED HAND.—We are glad to observe that in a case heard before Judge Austin and Mr. J. Holman in the Bristol Police Court, Dr. D. S. Davies, medical officer of health, selected to take the oath in the Scotch manner with uplifted hand, whereupon the following dialogue took place: Judge Austin: I wish more people would swear that way, doctor. Dr. Davies: It is a cleaner way, sir. Judge Austin: Much.

METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.—The annual meeting of the Metropolitan Sunday Fund was held on December 9th under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. The report stated that the collections made in various places of worship realized £46,331, or £10,000 in excess of the previous year. Mr. George Herring who had undertaken to contribute 5s. for every £1 collected in the different churches and chapels had thus given £11,575; the total sum collected was £62,669 which is an amount greater than in any previous year. On the motion of Mr. F. H. Norman, seconded by Sir W. S. Church, the constitution was altered so as to provide that in future the money distributed shall be wholly awarded to the maintenance of patients; extraordinary repairs and building improvements not to be included. Mr. Norman, in reply to a question, said that none of the money of the fund was used for the medical schools. It was resolved that Hospital Sunday next year should be fixed for June 14th.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.—It is announced that the Friday evening meetings of the Royal Institution of Great Britain will be resumed on January 16th, when Professor Dewar will give an address on Low Temperature Investigations; on January 23rd Dr. Tempest Anderson will speak on Recent Volcanic Eruptions; on February 13th Professor Sheridan Delépine will give a lecture on Health Dangers in Food; on February 27th Dr. Adolf Leibmann will speak on Perfumes, Natural and Artificial; on March 6th Professor J. G. McKendrick on Studies in Experimental Phonetics; on March 13th Professor Karl Pearson on Character Reading from External Signs; and on March 20th Professor Schäfer on the Paths of Volition. These arrangements are subject to revision, but will probably be followed. A course of six lectures on the Physiology of Digestion will be given on Tuesdays, beginning January 13th, at 5 p.m., by Dr. Allan Mac

fadyen, Fullerton Professor of Physiology to the Institution. A course of Christmas lectures will be given by Professor H. S. Hele-Shaw on Locomotion on the Earth, through the Water, and in the Air; the first lecture will be given on December 27th at 3 p.m.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:

- BRIDGWATER INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Edward Trevor, Bank Chambers, Bridgewater.
- BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £120 per annum, with board, residence, etc. Applications to the Secretary by December 18th.
- BROWN ANIMAL SANATORY INSTITUTION.—Professor-Superintendent. Salary, £250 per annum. Applications to the Secretary of the Institution, 149, Wandsworth Road, S.W., by December 31st.
- CAMBRIDGE: ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL.—House-Physician. Salary £20 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the Secretary, 23, St. Andrew's Street, Cambridge, by December 30th.
- CANCER HOSPITAL (FREE), Fulham Road, S.W.—Junior House-Surgeon. Appointment for six months, but renewable. Salary, £70 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to the Secretary by January 1st, 1903.
- COLCHESTER: ESSEX AND COLCHESTER HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, washing, and residence. Applications to the Secretary by December 23rd.
- DUDDY: 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 December 15th.
- GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, Holloway Road, N.—(1) Senior House-Physician. (2) Second House-Surgeon. (3) Third House-Surgeon. Appointments for six months. Salary for (1) at the rate of £60 per annum, and for (2) and (3) £30 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing in each case. Applications, on forms provided, to be sent to the Secretary by December 15th.
- GREAT YARMOUTH HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £90 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing, and £10 extra for lectures to probationary nurses. Applications to R. F. E. Ferrier, Esq., Hon. Secretary, 33, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, by January 5th, 1903.
- HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Soho Square, W.—House-Physician. Appointment for six months. Salary, £30. Applications to the Secretary by December 17th.
- KING'S COLLEGE, London.—Assistant Anaesthetist at King's College Hospital. Applications to the Secretary by December 16th.
- LIVERPOOL INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.—Assistant Resident Medical Officer, unmarried, and not exceeding 30 years of age. Salary, £120 per annum, with board, washing, and lodging. Applications endorsed "Assistant Resident Medical Officer," to be addressed to the Chairman of the Port Sanitary and Hospital Committee, under cover to the Town Clerk, Municipal Offices, Liverpool, by December 15th.
- ROCHDALE INFIRMARY.—Resident Medical Officer, unmarried. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to the Honorary Secretary, E. W. Shaw, Esq., Southfield, Rochdale, by December 18th.
- ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, E.C.—(1) Physician, must be F.R.C.P. Lond. (2) Surgeon, must be F.R.C.S. Eng. Applications to the Clerk by December 16th.
- SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH.—Medical Officer of Health: not less than 25 nor more than 45 years of age. Salary, £250 per annum, rising to £400. Applications, endorsed "Medical Officer," to be sent to the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Scarborough, by December 29th.
- SOUTHAMPTON: ROYAL SOUTH HANTS AND SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL.—House-Physician. Salary, £100 per annum with rooms, board, and washing. Applications to the Secretary by December 18th.
- STOKES-UPON-TRENT: NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY, G. Heale, Esq., House-Surgeon. Salary, £120 per annum, increasing £10 per annum. (2) Assistant House-Surgeon. Appointment for six months. Honorarium at least £25. Apartments, board, and washing provided in each case. Applications to the Secretary by December 27th.
- SWANSEA GENERAL AND EYE HOSPITAL.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £75 per annum, with board, apartments, washing, and attendance. Applications to the Secretary by December 15th.
- VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Tite Street, Chelsea.—Medical Officer to the Department for Diseases of the Skin. Applications to the Secretary by December 20th.
- WREXHAM INFIRMARY.—Resident House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, washing, etc. Applications, on forms provided, to be sent to the Secretary by December 19th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

- ATKINSON, Harold William, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., appointed Junior Resident Medical Officer to the North-West London Hospital.
- BADCOCK, Austin, M.B. Lond., appointed House-Surgeon to the Brighton Throat and Ear Hospital.
- BULFEL, Marcus H., L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., appointed Surgeon to the Town Hospital, St. Peter Port, Guernsey.
- DAWES, Joseph W., M.B., C.M. Edin., appointed District Medical Officer of the Stoke-upon-Trent Union.
- HAMILTON, H. Lauder, M.B., Ch.B. Aberd., appointed Resident Medical Officer at the Grafton Street Infectious Diseases Hospital, Liverpool.
- JEFFRIES, Horace, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Bolton Infirmary, vice Dr. George Patrick, deceased.
- LEE, F. W., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Lond., appointed Workhouse and District Medical Officer of the Thakeham Union.
- MATHEWSON, Jas. W., M.B., B.S. Edin., appointed District Medical Officer of the Clun Union.
- NICOL, Percy W., M.D. Edin., D.P.H., R.C.P.S. Lond., appointed District Medical Officer to the Wandsworth and Clapham Union.
- PATTISON, Peterswald, M.B., Ch.B. Edin., appointed House-Physician to the Chester Infirmary, vice H. Lauder Hamilton, M.B., Ch.B. Aberd., resigned.
- PRIOR, E. T., M.R.C.S. Eng., appointed Medical Officer of the Workhouse of the Loddon and Clavering Union.
- PRITCHARD, W. L., M.B., C.M., appointed Medical Officer for the Nantyglo District of the Bedwelly Union.
- SAXTON, E., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., appointed District Medical Officer of the Stone Union.

DIARY FOR NEXT WEEK.

TUESDAY.

Pathological Society of London, 20, Hanover Square, W., 8.30 p.m.—Drs. E. H. Starling and W. M. Baylis: Pathological Aspects of Recent Work upon the Pancreas. Drs. T. G. Brodie and W. E. Dixon: Some Points in the Pathology of Spasmodic Asthma. Dr. H. Batty Shaw: Sodium Cinnamate Leucocytosis.

WEDNESDAY.

British Bacteriological and Climatological Society, 20, Hanover Square, W., 8.30 p.m. - Dr. Percy Lewis (Folkestone): On Convalescence.

Royal Meteorological Society, Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, Westminster S.W., 7.30 p.m.

Royal Microscopical Society, 20, Hanover Square, W., 8 p.m.

THURSDAY.

Harveian Society of London, Stafford Rooms, Titchborne Street, Edgware Road, W. 8.30 p.m. - Clinical evening. Cases will be shown by Dr. W. T. Harris, Mr. P. L. Daniel, and others.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C., Thursday, 4 p.m. - Lecture on Ophthalmic Cases.

Medical Graduates' College and Polytechnic, 22, Chancery Street, W.C. Demonstrations will be given at 4 p.m. as follows: - Monday, skin; Tuesday, medical; Wednesday, surgical; Thursday, surgical.

North-East London Post Graduate College, Tottenham Hospital, Thursday, 4 p.m. Lecture on the Symptoms and Diagnosis of Extranterine Pregnancy.

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.

BIRTH.

MARTIN. - On December 3rd, at Eastbourne, the wife of Dr. Anthony A. Martin, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BAXTER-RICHARDS. - On December 4th, at Blandford, Dorset, by the Rev. F. S. Beale, Stephen Edward Baxter, M.B.U.C.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., of Wollaston, Northants, to Mary Emma, eldest surviving daughter of the late O. C. Richards, Esq., and Mrs. Richards, of Langton Villa, Blandford.

CADDY-CURRIE. - On November 15th at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, by the Rev. C. G. Stokes, M.A., Arnold Caddy, F.R.C.S., of 32, Harrison Street, Calcutta, son of the late Dr. Caddy, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets R.N., to Edith Rolfe, youngest daughter of Archibald Currie, J.P., of Piadda, St. Kilda, Melbourne.

SHEPHERD-McELNEY. - On December 4th, 1902, at the First Presbyterian Church, Antrim, by the Rev. Robert McElney, M.A., Downpatrick, brother of the bride, assisted by the Rev. J. H. Ferguson, B.A., Randalstown, Thomas S. Shepherd, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. Next son of Charles Duwar Shepherd, Greystown, Arnsdale, to Elizabeth McElney, M.B., Ch.B., youngest daughter of the late Wm. McElney and of Mrs. McElney, Sharvogue House, Randalstown, co. Antrim.

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

QUERIES.

W. F. G. wishes to know whether it would be possible to find "a tea-total ship" on which a gentleman who has twice lost control could take a voyage.

DR. J. A. HENTON WHITS (Edgbaston) wishes to know where the small soap mills, which are to be seen in the lavatory carriages of many trains on the Continent, can be obtained.

ANSWERS.

N. B. G. - We are informed that the M.D. hood of the University of Brussels is of scarlet cloth lined with light blue (Cambridge) silk.

EUCALYPTUS IN THE TREATMENT OF DIABETES.

J. M. C. - Eucalyptus leaves were recommended in an article by Mr. Faulds in the *Glasgow Medical Journal* for May, 1902. An infusion of a tablespoonful of the broken dried leaves of the eucalyptus globulus is made in a teapot by adding 6oz. of boiling water and allowing it to stand for half an hour. This dose is to be taken twice daily. The writer of this note has tried it in several cases, but has not been able to see the slightest benefit from it.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

ERRATUM. - In Dr. J. Ellerton's letter under the heading of "Contract Practice," *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, December 6th, p. 1302, line 6, for "chief family clubs" read "cheap family clubs."

SUDDEN DEATHS FROM UNRECOGNIZED DIPHTHERIA IN 1818-19.
DR. W. SYKES (Exeter) writes. With reference to an annotation in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of November 1st, p. 1255, you wrote truly that "the sudden death which is perhaps the most tragic of all... is that occurring in the course of a diphtherial neuritis. Shocking as these occurrences are at present, when generally diagnosed in advance, and always understood afterwards, how infinitely more tragic must they have been before diphtheria itself was recognized, and its sequelae were not even suspected. When the fatal result was an utterly unexpected event, which so sometimes, as in the following instance, swept off every childish inmate of the household, leaving the parents desolate, without even the poor consolation of knowing the hand that smote them, or the disease from which their darling perished, except a dim idea occurred that, in the words of the coroner's jury, they had "died by the visitation of God." In the obituary notices of the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1819 (vol. lxxix, p. 278) occurs the following: "1818. December 29th. Deaths. - Edward, the son of Mr. Gillard, a respectable farmer near Tiverton, a healthy, fine-looking youth, aged 11, after a few days' illness of a complaint in his throat, leaving behind him three sisters, all hale promising girls; but on Saturday, January 16th, 1819, Mary, aged 10, was seized with

a disorder in her eye. No serious apprehensions were entertained, but she died on the following Wednesday! and on the next Wednesday was buried. Awful to relate! The parents and relatives were but just returned from the grave when Elizabeth, aged 3 years, suddenly expired, leaving only one object of consolation to the afflicted parents, but of that hope they were bereaved, for the surviving child Anne, aged five years, began to croop, lingered until the following Tuesday, February 2nd, and then she also died! Thus, in the short space of about five weeks, these four promising children were snatched away from their fond parents.

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

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