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EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

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NEW SERIES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SPACE DEVOTED TO METEOROLOGY. We have to thank the numerous correspondents who have replied to our appeal on this point; and to intimate, that in consequence of the preponderance of opinion being decidedly opposed to the occupation weekly of more than one page of daily meteorological tables, we have resolved not to exceed that space in our new volume.

OZONE OBSERVATIONS. After the 1st January, these columns will be regularly filled.

MR. JEANS' REPORT. We are requested to state that the reason why the maximum is left blank in the 6th column, is that the observations are made in a town where the sun's rays are so interfered with in the winter by the surrounding houses, that they cannot be depended upon. For this reason, Mr. Jeans proposes to omit these observations from the end of September to the beginning of April.

ABERDEEN DEGREES. We cannot answer the letters which we are constantly receiving on this subject.

LETTERS FOR THE JOURNAL must invariably be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

PRIVATE LETTERS, without a signature, are very objectionable; and we beg to say, that we never act upon information so supplied. If there are homœopaths and advertising quacks upon the roll of members, we shall be glad to assist in securing their expulsion; but we cannot make charges of the kind which have been forwarded to us by several anonymous correspondents within the last fortnight. We advise our correspondents to lay the facts before the Medico-Ethical Committee for their advice and aid. We can speak of ethical principles and laws; but it is not the Editor's province to enforce laws, or censure members by name, for their delinquencies.

THE LATE ACCIDENTS FROM CHLOROFORM.

In another part of the present number, we have given the details of some deaths from chloroform, which have occurred since we previously made a report on the subject. Three of these deaths have taken place in this kingdom, within a short time of each other. Like nearly all the accidents from chloroform, they have happened just preparatory to, or during surgical operations. In the cases which occurred in University College Hospital, there was fatty degeneration of the right ventricle of the heart, which, however, was not known or suspected beforehand. The other patients were strong and tolerably sound in organisation. These accidents cast a gloom over the otherwise brilliant discovery of anæsthesia in surgery; and, although they are few in comparison with the thousands of instances in which the patient is saved from intense suffering with no ill effects whatever, yet they do not fail to cause a certain amount of apprehension, both in the patient who resolves to take chloroform, and the surgeon who has to administer it, or operate during its use. We fear that, unless the effects of chloroform become better understood, or unless

precautions be adopted which are not in general use at present, accidents will continue to happen now and then in surgical operations.

With the history of these accidents before us, it is right to draw attention to the circumstance that no case has been recorded in which death has been caused by the exhibition of chloroform in midwifery. It is our opinion that no such case has occurred; and this we consider to be due to the very moderate chloroformisation which suffices in obstetric practice, in comparison with what is required in surgical operations. The only case we have heard of in which even danger was incurred by the administration of chloroform in labour, was one in which all the most ordinary precautions were utterly disregarded. It happened in France, and is related in the *Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique* of August 15th. M. Boinet, the practitioner, having to apply the forceps, gave the handkerchief, on which about 3ij of chloroform had been poured, to the patient's husband, telling him to remove it when his wife became insensible; but the husband, being engrossed with the operation, left the handkerchief on his wife's face. She was reduced to a state of suspended animation, but was fortunately resuscitated by means of insufflation performed from mouth to mouth.

To conclude, nothing has occurred, either in our practice or reading, but what confirms the opinion we expressed in this Journal of May 27th, "that the cautious inhalation of the vapour of chloroform during labour is entirely free from danger, and calculated to afford merciful relief from pain in one of the most agonising trials of humanity."

THE CITY RECORDER'S OPINION ON ADVERTISING QUACK SCOUNDRELS.

The City Recorder, like many other of our high and mighty ones, seems to have determined not to let the opportunity slip of bestowing a patronising wink on the charlatans who pollute the press with vile and indecent advertisements, or of showing that he considers the honourable members of the medical profession as one and the same with the impostors on whom he bestows his benevolent smiles.

In passing sentence on a person calling himself Hamilton (whose execrable bills have more than once been thrust into our hands in the streets of London), for an indecent assault on a young woman, the Recorder made the following remarks:

"It was a most gross and serious matter; for a woman, when she placed herself in the hands of a medical man under such circumstances, was in a manner defenceless. It was of the utmost importance that women, who were compelled to seek advice and expose the maladies under which they laboured, should not be in any way deterred from so doing by the fear that their position would be abused and taken advantage of. He should not deal harshly with him (Hamilton), because he was not a regular practitioner, nor because he was an advertising doctor, but for the reason stated."

Such is the language of the Recorder of the City of