

CORRESPONDENTS are particularly requested by the Editor to observe that communications relating to advertisements, changes of address, and other business matters, should be addressed to Mr. FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary and Manager, at the Journal Office, 161, Strand, London, and not to the Editor.

HOSPITAL FLOORING.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent F.R.C.S., regarding the most suitable flooring for a hospital, I believe it would be difficult to find a better substance for that purpose than teak. I am not aware of any English hospital being paved with cement, nor do I think it at all suitable for such a purpose, as most cements absorb, and are difficult to clean. The only means I can suggest to render a cement floor fit for hospital use would be to cover it with linoleum or corticine, or, if a more durable material be desired (for passages), and sufficient money can be obtained for the purpose, to overlay the whole with broken marble mosaic.

As your correspondent may wish to know what my experience in such matters may be, I beg to say that it has been acquired during the construction of a large metropolitan hospital now in process of building.—I beg to remain, sir, yours faithfully,

REGINALD E. THOMPSON.

9, Cranley Place, South Kensington, May 28th, 1880.

SIR,—There is a request in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 29th, for information respecting the most suitable flooring for hospitals. I know from experience that flooring done in the way I am about to describe is not only pretty but good and useful.

The wood, if deal, should be narrow boards, and fine-grained, stained a pretty shade of brown, then a coat of size, next a coat of oak varnish, after that a regular rubbing with beeswax and turpentine. The size and varnish prevent slops from sinking into the wood; the wax and turpentine keep the floors pure, and are indeed a good antiseptic. The floors should not be washed oftener than once in four or six months, but must, of course, be swept twice a day (as, indeed, any hospital flooring should be), rubbed a little with a long handled weighted rubber after each sweeping, and "waxed" once a week, care being taken not to use too much wax, and to have it thin enough. Oak varnish is quite good enough, if care be taken that it is such as will dry at once; it will not crack, as it is not exposed to the weather, and is constantly rubbed with the wax and turpentine. Old floors may be stained, etc., if the wood be good, and they are planed first. Cement floors are cold, noisy, and so hard that they cause much breakage.—I am, yours truly,

A. DANNATT.

Royal Infirmary, Preston, June 1st, 1880.

A COUNTRY PRACTITIONER.—In addition to the articles on the subject of the use of fuchsin in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, our correspondent may consult Feltz et Duclos, *Gazette Hebdomadaire*, 1877; Feltz, *Gazette Hebdomadaire*, 1876, No. 25; *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, 1877, No. 50; *ib.*, 1878, No. 43; Divet, *De la Fuchsin dans le Traitement de l'Albuminurie*, Thèse de Paris, 1879; Dieulafoy, *Gazette Hebdomadaire*, 1879, Nos. 30 et 32.

ERGOT SUPERSEDED.

SIR,—Unfortunately, I have only just seen Dr. Smith's letter in the JOURNAL of the 15th instant. The answer to his inquiry how the air is to be retained in the pessary, is, by the simple process of folding the tube upon itself, and tying a piece of tape or twine round it.—I am, etc.,

S. S. ROSEN.

Droitwich, May 26th, 1880.

A NROUVICUS CANDIDATE.—Reporters have never been admitted to the Fellowship examination at the Royal College of Surgeons. The gentleman who took copious notes was Mr. Gant, a Fellow of the College by examination, doubtless with a view to another edition of his useful little work.

DR. HARRIS.—Next Monday will be the last day for nominating candidates for seats in the Council of the College of Surgeons, soon after which their names will be known through the letter to be sent out by Mr. Trimmer. Sir James Paget will take the chair at the annual festival.

TRICYCLES VERSUS HORSES.

SIR,—Some time ago, a very interesting letter was published in this JOURNAL concerning pedo-motive machines in the place of horses, and signed "Vacuus Viator cantabit coram Latronibus". By many readers it was thought to have too much *couleur de rose*; but still, from the many letters that have appeared since, it seems the ball has been set rolling; and the cost of horse-flesh, with its accessories, has led many to seriously contemplate the possibility of employing the bicycle or the tricycle in country practice. I am a small and not a strong man, and I am accustomed to speak the truth. On these very grounds, I believe my remarks will be not only of interest, but of value to some.

Bicycles, I think, are not adapted for the purpose, for the following reasons: 1. Agile young men only can ride them; 2. The best riders are liable to dangerous falls; 3. The rider cannot stop to speak to a person in the road, but must either dismount or fall off; 4. Good roads and good weather are almost essential for the bicycle; 5. There is much trouble in learning to ride them. The tricycle I advise has not one of these drawbacks.

Many, however, consider there is a loss of dignity in riding these machines. A similar argument has often been objected against the use of new and ill-understood inventions; and he was a bold but a sensible man who first walked down the Strand in the rain, protected with the then new-fangled thing now known as an umbrella. That man was laughed to scorn, but he was right.

I have experience of nearly all the tricycles in the market, and give my testimony in favour of the new "Salvo" by Starley of Coventry; this machine is a great improvement on the earlier "Salvo" he brought out; and I consider it outdistances by a long way every other tricycle. The driving wheels are forty-six inches high, and the machine is thirty pounds lighter than the first "Salvo". My country is hilly, but I never dismount, and can easily ascend gradients of 1 in 18, or even steeper. I can get an average pace on the turnpike road of eight miles an hour up hill and down as it comes. I have travelled at the rate of twelve miles an hour; but this is a racing speed, and not required.

As I practise a speciality, and my patients come to me instead of me going to them, my "Salvo" is not much used actually in practice; but it is most easy to ride, requires no trouble to learn, and is ready at any instant for use. Moreover, you are perfectly secure from accident or upset: perhaps more so even than with a pony carriage. My "Salvo" which I first rode had fifty-inch driving wheels; and in adding up the various runs I had made with it, I found I had soon done a thousand miles. The new "Salvo" I ride usually in the evenings, and generally go from ten to thirty miles or more. One can carry thirty pounds of luggage if needed; and the machine is fitted with an oil lamp, which gives a brilliant light and is not jerked or put out by jolting over a rough road, which is a great thing for night travelling.

I fully believe when these machines are known, their use will become far more general than at present. It was from reading the letter to which I have already referred, that I was induced to purchase one of these machines; and I have never regretted having done so.—I am, etc.,

W. A. HUNT, L.R.C.P.Lond., etc.

Yeovil, May 26th, 1880.

SIR,—As "An Irish Surgeon" is in quest of a thoroughly good tricycle, I wish to bring to his notice the Devon tricycle. It possesses many advantages over most machines, and is certainly an elegant carriage. In the number of the *Exchange and Mart*, published January 30th, 1880, there is an article by Mr. H. Hewitt Griffin describing it in detail.—Yours respectfully,

ARTHUR KEMPE.

20, St. Sidwell's, Exeter, May 31st, 1880.

A COUNTRY FELLOW.—If our correspondent have not received the usual notice, it is simply his own fault, as, on reference to the calendar, his name appears without any address. The last notice sent him was, we are told, returned through the post office endorsed "Gone away, address not known". He should write to the Secretary of the College.

UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

SIR,—In your last issue, the treatment of this condition is mentioned in a letter written by Mr. Frank Smith, and he advises the use of perchloride of iron to check the hæmorrhage. This is no doubt effectual; but I would suggest a much readier and less troublesome method, and very efficient, viz., the hypodermic injection of solution of ergotine, which has proved most satisfactory in my practice without any injurious results. I hope to show, on another occasion, that this method of treatment is better than the injection of the solution of perchloride recommended in Mr. Smith's letters.—Yours faithfully,

JAMES THOMPSON, M.D.

Leamington, May 31st, 1880.

THE YOUNGEST FELLOW.—Having passed the examination on Saturday last, you can record your votes for the candidates for seats in the Council at the annual meeting at the College on Thursday, the 1st proximo. The Secretary will send full instructions.

A DISTRESSING CASE.

THE following sums have been received by Dr. Heywood Smith for Mr. Dalton since February 28th.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

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Being the Journal of the British Medical Association.

No. 1044. INDEX.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1880.

Registered as a Newspaper. 6d.

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