

**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.

#### BATHING IN JAPAN.

THE Japanese, like all Orientals, are very scrupulous as to bodily cleanliness, and every inhabitant of Japan takes at least one hot bath a day. The bath is a small wooden tub, in the form of an elliptic section of a cone, of which the arcs are only from sixty to eighty centimetres, and the depth never exceeds seventy centimetres. It is, of course, impossible to lie at full length in such a tub, and the bather is obliged to crouch down in it. The water in it is heated by hot embers placed in a cast-iron cauldron contained in an opening placed for the purpose at the bottom of the bath. The water begins to boil as soon as the fire is lighted; and, as there is very little in the bath, it boils at the end of half-an-hour, and the temperature is easily kept up in a wooden vessel. In the towns, the bath-establishments use large square tubs formed of wooden staves, joined like barrels; the soundness of the joints being assured by covering them carefully on both sides and stopping up the chinks with the bark of a resinous tree called "segni" (cryptomeria Japonica). As a rule, each establishment has only one bath, however many may be its customers; and many persons bathe at once in this receptacle.

#### OPEN SPACES.

AN "Almost Octogenarian" writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette*: "The recent discussion on the throwing open of Lincoln's Inn Fields reminds me, who am old enough to remember when Leicester Square was more generally spoken of as Leicester Fields, how many of the open spaces in the metropolis which were called fields, and were really so, have disappeared from the map of London. Moor Fields, Bunhill Fields, Spa Fields, Spital Fields, Copenhagen Fields, and a host of others, exist only in name. Copenhagen Fields are now covered by the prison which Coleridge and Southey have immortalised. St. George's Fields, where Falstaff and Master Shallow 'lay all night in the windmill', retained much of their rural character when I was a boy—that is, before the new Bedlam was built there in 1812 over fourteen acres of ground, and the erection of St. George's Cathedral not until between twenty and thirty years later. Tothill Fields, where I once saw the end of a bull-bait, which was under the management of the well known Caleb Baldwin, owe their preservation as an open space to being kept as the cricket and football ground of the Westminster. But the Dean and Chapter ought never to have changed the name of the place from Tothill Fields to Vincent Square. For that ripe and accomplished scholar Dean Vincent would have been the last to sanction the wiping out of a name of such antiquity and historical interest as that which commemorates the existence on that spot of one of the last of our 'Toot's Hills'. But the greatest conversion of open fields into populous neighbourhoods is that which has transformed the large stretch of quite open ground between the Knightsbridge Road and Millbank into Belgrave, Eaton, Chester, Eccleston, Warwick, and St. George's Squares. Belgrave Square covers what was once a brickfield; Warwick and St. George's what were once market-gardens; while Chester and Eaton Squares, intersected by the King's Road, were even later than 1820 known as the 'Five Fields', in which five fields I have more than once seen the Life Guards exercised and inspected by Lord Cathcart."

These great changes render more and more necessary a vigilant watch over all opportunities of preserving and acquiring breathing-places for the vast population of London. Every space built over not only subtracts a certain portion of unbreathed air, but adds to the pollution of the London atmosphere by smoke and human emanations.

#### CARE OF AN INSANE PATIENT.

SIR,—Can you inform me how I can dispose of a young man, a patient of mine, who is suffering from mental derangement (not dangerous). He has once been in the county asylum, but the parish authorities will not again grant him admission, as he is not a pauper. His friends are country shopkeepers, and quite willing to pay all expenses, or would pay, say, £40 to £50 per annum to have him taken care of. This is all they can afford; but the rate in private asylums is much higher than this.

I would feel obliged for any information on the subject, or if you can tell me if there is any way he can be again got into the county asylum without the aid of the relieving officer. The favour of a reply in your next issue will oblige yours faithfully,

MEMBER OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

June 2nd, 1886.

\* They would take in such a case at St. Luke's for one guinea a week. Some of the cheaper proprietary asylums take in patients for less, as Fisherton House, Salisbury, Bethnal House, Camberwell House, and Peckham House Asylums, London.

#### VACCINIA MALIGNA VEL GANGRÆNOSA.

SIR,—I observe, in a discussion in Dublin upon a case of gangrenous eruption of the skin, occurring recently in that city, that some of the speakers expressed a disbelief in vaccinia being the cause of this eruption in any case. They seemed to think that, when such an eruption appeared after vaccination, it must only be looked on as a mere coincidence. I can hardly think this is the true view of the matter.

The case seen by Mr. Hutchinson, and brought by him under the notice of the Pathological Society of London, was also seen by me; and I had the opportunity of calling on the parents and on Mr. Faulkner, 9, Endell Street, who vaccinated the child. There was no doubt left in my mind that this was one of the extremely rare cases in which the vaccine virus acts malignantly, and causes a fatal eruption in an infant with some peculiarity of constitution. I presume such an event would not occur again once in one million vaccinations, or even many more than that. But, what I want to point out is, that we are accustomed to such extraordinary and malignant effects of several other animal poisons. Take, for instance, syphilis. As a general rule, the disease, as I see it in the Rescue Society's Hospital among healthy young women, is most benign; but, in my remembrance, I have seen patients carried off rapidly by malignant lupus, which no medication could cure. And so with all other fevers and poisons, such as variola, measles, scarlatina, etc.

It seems to me, then, that the eruption called by Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson "vaccinia gangrænosa" is no misnomer. I would myself call it vaccinia maligna, according to the analogy of syphilis.—Your obedient servant,

17, Woburn Place, W.C., June 8th, 1886.

CHAS. R. DRYSDALE, M.D.

#### FILTERS.

SIR,—A paragraph from the *Times* has been going the round of the papers concerning my report on filtering materials. That paragraph is a misleading one, and does not give a fair account of the conclusions arrived at. The experiments were made to ascertain if the new material were sufficiently good as a filtering substance to justify its adoption for service purposes; and for that purpose, it was tried against spongy iron and silicated carbon. All three were found good filtering media, but the balance was rather in favour of the carferal and of the spongy iron. Indeed, the excellence of the latter material was never questioned. The carferal seemed, however, more practically convenient for the public service. For ordinary purposes, the spongy iron still remains one of the best filters in the market.—Your obedient servant,

F. DE CHAUMONT.

Netley, June 8th, 1886.

A CONSTANT READER, DUBLIN; AND OTHERS.—Sir Henry Thompson's brochure on Food and Feeding is published by Fred. Warne and Co., Bedford Street, Strand.

H. W.—We believe that German yeast is perfectly wholesome, although sometimes adulterated with silicate of alumina. It is obtained from a fermented liquid by filtration. We do not think that any deleterious effect could be produced by eating home-made bread made with it.

CAN any brother member kindly inform "Musca" of an effectual and easy application that will keep the flies off an irritable horse?

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#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Diagnosis of Diseases of the Spinal Cord. By W. R. Gowers, M.D., F.R.C. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.  
The Surgeon's Pocket-Book. By Surgeon-Major J. H. Porter. Second Edition. London: Charles Griffin and Co. 1886.  
The Brain and its Diseases. Part 1. By T. Stretch Dowse, M.D. London: Bailière, Tindall, and Cox. 1886.  
The Brain, as an Organ of Mind. By H. Charlton Bastian, M.A.; M.D., F.R.S. London: C. Kegan Paul and Co., 1886.  
The Orthopragms of the Spine. By R. Heather Bigg. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

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*Being the Journal of the British Medical Association.*

No. 1015.]

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1880.

{Registered as  
a Newspaper.} 6d.

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