

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.

FOUND DEAD.

STERNE's days are long gone by, yet there remain several matters that they order better in France. There is always room for improvement where there is opportunity for adoption. Instead of building a morgue, which has the disadvantage of encouraging morbid curiosity, we might with advantage adopt a suggestion of Mr. G. E. Boggis in the *Echo*, and establish in London an office for the registry of all persons found dead, with such a description of their appearance and person as would enable anyone in search of a lost relative or friend to obtain at once such information as could be supplied within a circle of many miles. A great number of bodies are yearly picked up, and too often buried as unclaimed paupers at the expense of the parish where they may be found. The utilisation of dead-houses for medical education would be of great benefit to society. A hospital lecturer on Forensic Medicine might, as opportunity arose, give a practical demonstration to his class of the appearances of the body after different forms of violent death. His pupils, who after qualification would be all more or less certain to figure in the witness-box, would derive great benefit from his instruction. In these days, when the real object of medical education appears to be preparation for satisfying examiners, we must hail with relief any proposal to assist the student in learning how to satisfy patients or juries.

WILL any member kindly inform me where I can find an account of Dr. Liebreich's "Effects of Certain Faults of Vision on Painting"? S. WINTER FISHER.
136, Marine Parade, Brighton, June 2nd, 1880.

IMBECILE CHILDREN.

SIR,—Can you kindly inform me of any institution or institutions where children of weak intellect are received for moderate payment (say ten shillings to fifteen shillings per week) with the object of developing their latent mental powers?—Yours obediently, J. T.

"MOST BENIGNANT" DISEASE.

SIR,—Much of the recent coinage of medical terms is not very happy. It does not strike us that a great naming genius is abroad, at least in our department of the scientific world. This may be matter for regret; but rather to be deprecated is the arbitrary wresting of English words to new uses which are utterly senseless and which must sound absurd to any but professional ears.

In a letter in last week's JOURNAL, Dr. Drysdale thus speaks of syphilis: "As a general rule, the disease, as I see it... among healthy young women, is most benignant". This reminds me of a remark I once heard from a surgeon; he thought it was a good thing for a man to get syphilis, because whatever should be the matter with him afterwards, we could always cure him by giving iodide of potassium. In this view, Dr. Drysdale's term might be no misnomer; and perhaps a satirist could suggest another reason why doctors should call disease benignant. By a well-understood figure of speech, a disease may be called malignant, and another, contrasted with it, non-malignant; but to speak of a diseased process like syphilis, however amenable to treatment, as positively, yea superlatively, benignant, is surely the imbecility of nomenclature. I had thought the term was dropping out of use, even as applied to tumours.—Your obedient servant,

MEMB. BRIT. MED. ASSOC.

SURGEON A.M.D. asks: Can any of your readers inform me where I can find an article by Surgeon Mulcuhy, R.N., on "The Similarity of Enteric and Malarial Fevers"?

SALARIES IN CEYLON.

SIR,—In reference to an advertisement in the accompanying *Ceylon Observer*, I send this as a warning to any intending candidates. The salary offered is not really the money paid to a common clerk or storekeeper out here, and is barely sufficient to provide for the necessities of life in the Coffee Districts, where a rupee has not the purchasing power of a shilling in England, and where the requirements are more. Any medical man accepting such an appointment would find his status in society very anomalous, and would certainly, at the end of the year, find himself out of pocket or in debt. Nothing need be expected from other "emoluments". That is only a pleasant fiction. The work is hard, done all by riding; the roads are not only bad but dangerous, as witness the number of medical men who lost their lives during the last seven years; and finally, the service is very unpopular and uncertain—likely, indeed, to be entirely abolished in the course of eight or ten months. I leave it to you to judge whether it would be judicious in anyone to accept such an appointment.—I am, sir, yours truly, M.D.
Central Province, Ceylon, May 16th, 1880.

COMPOUND FRACTURE OF THE SKULL AND THE ANTISEPTIC TREATMENT.

SIR,—I noticed, in your impression of June 5th, a report of an interesting case of compound fracture of cranium, under the care of Mr. John Croft at St. Thomas's Hospital. The case was specially interesting to me, as it was almost identical, both in extent of lesion and ultimate results, with a case treated by me in the Forfar Infirmary, and reported in the *Lancet* of July 7th, 1877. I should not have troubled you with any remarks on Mr. Croft's case, but for the strong evidence in the report of "Listeromania", as we dubbers call it. This is not as yet, in the complete form, as the reporter terms it, a received doctrine by the great bulk of medical practitioners; and in the interests of truth I would object to hasty generalising on one case. In his prologue, the reporter writes: "Such a result can only be certainly obtained from such a system of treatment. An equally successful issue might result from some other plan than 'Listerism'; but on no other known system can the surgeon rely for a succession of such results." But he fails to give us the data on which he grounds this opinion. Again, in his epilogue, he says: "The perfectly aseptic states of the lesions negated any inflammatory action; and consequently none of the calamities of surgery occurred to mar the progress to recovery." How, then, would he account for the result in my case, where the dressings were by no means Listerian? The lesions were certainly as serious, and the result as successful, or even more so, as my patient left the hospital in less than five weeks, while Mr. Croft's patient was only dismissed in less than eight weeks. This is a subject which, in my opinion, should not be taken up in a spirit of partisanship, but the results of the cases treated by the various dressings should be collected and calmly weighed before passing an opinion. Surely the opinions of men with the experience of Professor Spence, Mr. Sampson Gamgee, etc., are entitled to every respect.—I remain, yours very respectfully, WILLIAM F. MURRAY, F. and L.R.C.S. Edin.
Forfar, June 9th, 1880.

TRICYCLES.

SIR,—In reply to the inquiries of "An Irish Surgeon", from experience I would recommend the "Improved Triumph Tricycle" manufactured by Warman, Laxton, and Co., Coventry. Without any prejudice or disparagement of the Salvo, I can scarcely understand a letter in the *Journal* of May 29th, signed J. A. Erskine Stuart, wherein he recommends the "Salvo", and, in conclusion, states that the same does not come up to his little views of its usefulness and adaptability to country practice. I have found very little difficulty in using the "Triumph" over a moderately hilly country.—Yours truly, M. D.
Birmingham, June 1st, 1880.

MR. ISRAEL MATTHEWS (Holyhead) asks for directions for the application of the ethylate of sodium in naevi and other vascular growths.

AMERICA FOR PHTHISIS.

SIR,—Will you allow me to make the following inquiry through your JOURNAL? I have a patient suffering from incipient phthisis, who refuses to go to Australia, but is willing to go either to Kansas or Colorado. I am anxious to know what part of North America is the most favourable for such cases; and if any particular locality of either Kansas or Colorado possesses a climate suitable for such cases?—Yours, etc., A. W.

CORNUBIENSIS should, we think, have discussed the matter first in his own Council before bringing it under notice in the JOURNAL. It is very much a matter of domestic regulation, and one, we feel sure, the Council would like to have laid before it for careful consideration.

F. W. B. would be glad to know of any cases, or reference to cases, or authors who have treated of gouty affections of the throat.

ARTIFICIAL LEGS.

SIR,—I have a patient, a young man, who has had both legs amputated through the calves. Will you or any of your readers kindly inform me what will be the best artificial substitutes for the lost locomotory organs?—Yours obediently, CRU'S.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:—

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Spirit of Nature. By Henry Bellyse Baildon, B.A. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1880.
Cranotomy and its Alternatives. By R. J. Kinkad, A.B., M.D. Dublin: 1880.
Science, a Stronghold of Belief. By Richard Budd Painter, M.D., F.R.C.S. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1880.
Edgar Allan Poe, his life, letters, and opinions. By John H. Ingram. Two volumes. London: John Hogg, Paternoster Row. 1880.
Royat; its Mineral Waters and Climate. By C. H. Brandt, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1880.
A Treatise on Comparative Embryology. By Francis M. Balfour, M.A., F.R.S. Vol. 1. London: Macmillan and Co. 1880.
Manual of Diseases of the Throat and Nose. Vol. 1. By Morell Mackenzie, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1880.
Food and Feeding. By Sir Henry Thompson, F.R.C.S. London: Fredk. Warne and Co. 1880.

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