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 the Manager, at the Journal Office, 161A, Strand, London, and not to the Editor.

MR. TENNYSON AND THE DOCTORS.

MR. TENNYSON AND THE DOCTORS.

UNDER this head, "Penelope", whose excellent letter we quoted recently from the ladies' column of the Bolton Weekly Journal, has issued a reply to various correspondents, which will be read with not less interest than her first letter.

"To the Editor of the Journal."

"Sir,—A strange and unwarrantable interpretation has been persistently put upon the observations I made in your Journal a few weeks ago on Mr. Tennyson's new poem, the "Children's Hospital") by a certain set of impulsive persons, because I strongly object to the picture there drawn of a surgeon, and assert that it is not fair to allow such a portrait to be considered a typical one of a class, as it undoubtedly is, and will be, by most readers. I have never written one word which can be construed in a vindication of, or in sympathy with, vivisection; and yet I am accused of sympathising with vivisection and all sorts of cruelties, and am actually requested to argue this vexed question in your columns. Now, I feel myself as incapable of doing this as I should like the hot-headed railers at men of science to confess themselves to be. Neither I not they possess sufficient knowledge of what incapable of doing this as I should like the hot-headed railers at men of science to confess themselves to be. Neither I nor they possess sufficient knowledge of what is required to confirm a great physiological experiment to enable us to pronounce an opinion. Where we are ignorant, let us be silent. I know very many medical men—many surgeons and physicians to hospitals—and I gladly bear testimony to their kindness, gentleness, patience, and reverence in the performance of their work. I am at a loss to imagine where Mr. Tennyson found his model. There may be a man in the profession answering to his description; I never saw him, and I think it wrong and unfair that such a picture should be allowed to go forth amongst the ignorant as that of a typical hospital doctor. Mr. Tennyson should have named his man if he be not intended for one of a class. It is very unlikely that the majority of practising, surgeons ever performed or witnessed an experiment have named his man if he be not intended for one of a class. It is very unlikely that the majority of practising surgeons ever performed or witnessed an experiment on a living animal; they do but take advantage of such knowledge as that which was arrived at by the great John Hunter, who tied the arteries in a stag's antler, and thereby discovered the possibility of curing a certain form of aneurism in a human being, a disease entailing long months of agony, ending only in death, and considered to be utterly incurable till this carefully performed experiment showed a way of escape, to which many since John Hunter's time owe their lives. Yet, whether the modern surgeon be responsible for his own experiments, or whether he do but avail himself of the conclusions of others, is not to the point of my letter. I would, as far as I am able to do so, vindicate the character of a body of men whom I value and respect. I am content to leave the question of how their education shall be conducted in their own hands. I believe the men who decide on these matters know far better what is required than either I or Mr. Tennyson, or any of my critics, can tell them; and I also believe them to be as humane and earnest, and as unwilling to commit a cruelty or a wrong as any one of their reviers. Men and as unwilling to commit a cruelty or a wrong as any one of their revilers. Men who spare not themselves in the search for truth; whose tenderness and kindness are proverbial; whose own lives are freely given to save those of others, in whom danger, greater than that of the soldier on the battle-field, creates no dismay in the discharge of their holy and noble calling; may surely be trusted to do what the discharge of their holy and noble calling; may surely be trusted to do what is right, by those who know nothing whatever of their studies or their work. However much my nature may shrink from the idea of inflicting or witnessing pain in any creature, I am willing to trust where I cannot understand; but, where I find goodness, to believe others as averse to cruelty as myself, and not to allow the outcry of the ignorant and uninformed to undermine my faith in humanity as I know it to exist. Until to-day, I was not aware that Mr. Tennyson is related to the treasurer of Guy's Hospital, whose doings in the nursing department of that noble old charity have lately caused so much public discussion. This fact may the treasurer of Guy's Hospital, whose doings in the nursing department of that noble old charity have lately caused so much public discussion. This fact may account for the animus of portions of the poem in question. It seems to me that the improved education, both of men and women, in the present day, tends greatly to the increase of conceit, and that we are proving how dangerous is a "little knowledge". Ignorant men and sentimental women now enter the lists to argue with and to decry the practice of men whose whole lives have been devoted to particular and special research. Let such persons go through the same training, and devote years to the study of facts and phenomena of which they are now entirely ignorant, before they venture to criticise and denounce what they ought reverently to respect, if they cannot understand. It is in this attitude that I feel myself on this vexed and painful question.—I am, sir, faithfully yours, PENELOPE.—London, Jan. 18th, 1881."

The Fever at Tandragee.

THE FEVER AT TANDRAGEE.

SIR,-I would feel obliged if you would kindly find room for this correction of an error in my letter about the fever at Tandragee which appeared in your last issue. The 'sentence, "Nine deaths had occurred in the Union Hospital", should have been "Nine deaths had occurred, one of these taking place in the Union Hospital, Pachaller," "Y Banbridge".—Yours, etc.,

EDMOND SHACKLETON, L.K.Q.C.P.I., & L.R.C.S.I.

Tandragee, January 30th, 1881.

"RECTIFICATION".

"Rectification".

Sir,—One evening in the early part of the present week, a gentlemanly man about fifty-five years of age, above the average height, with grey hair and beard, called upon me, and requested that I should visit a young gentleman at South Kensington, and report upon his state of health, as he was desirous of borrowing money upon his life-policy. On expressing my willingness to take a trip over to South Kensington, my visitor promised to call again on the following day at 5.30, and furnish me with "full details". He then withdrew from his trousers' pocket about a sovereign in silver coin, which he proceeded to count; this done, my visitor stated that, owing to his detention at the Court of Exchequer that day, he had been prevented from "getting up to Counts", and that it would be a great accommodation to him if I would lend him five shillings, which he would "rectify" the next evening. He has, however, up to the present time, failed to "rectify" the little debt he had incurred. incurred.

I write this with a hope that it may be a means of warning members of the medical profession against this man.—Yours obediently, J. FFRENCH BLAKE.

1, Princes Street, Storey's Gate, S.W., January 29th, 1881.

STAMMERING. SIR,—I am anxious to obtain information on the above subject. Is there any work giving a system by which it can be cured or relieved? I have a patient (an intelligent boy) whose parents are willing to give any amount of attention to the carrying out of any system by which the defect may be remedied; but circumstances will not permit of his going into any institution from home.—I am, etc.,

Liverpool, January 27th, 1881.

A. H. F. CAMERON.

INHALATION OF BENZOATE OF SODA IN PHTHISIS.

IR,—Could you or any of your readers oblige me with the information as to the best mode of inhaling benzoate of soda in the treatment of consumption? It is a German discovery.—I am, yours truly,

ROBERT BIRD WILKINS. discovery.—I am, yours truly,
Castlehold, Newport, Isle of Wight, Jan. 30th, 1881.

** Its use by inhalation was recommended by Klebs and Rokitansky (vide leading article in British Medical Journal of January 3rd, 1880, p. 23); but it has not been successful in Germany or elsewhere.

Dr. Stainthorpe.—A treatise on Cottage Hospitals, giving details of construction, cost, etc., by Mr. H. Burdett, is published by Messrs. Churchill and Co.

CHILBLAINS.

CHIBLAINS.

IR,—Will you allow me to call the attention of the readers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL to the admirable effects which "anodyne amyl colloid" (Ferris and Co.) has in allaying the irritation of chilblains. After being exposed to the cold and snow for several hours, I suffered intensely from the irritation of chilblains on my feet. I applied the anodyne, and the relief was instantaneous. I have since tried it on several patients, and in each case the result has been the same.—Yours, etc.,

W. J. H. Lush, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.

Fyfield, near Andover, January 24th, 1881.

TRAPS FOR COUNTRY PRACTITIONERS.

SIR,—For several months past I have been using a "Sanspareil Gig", built by Harrison and Brass of Elgin. The body of this gig rests upon two springs placed transversely; the front spring being immediately under the feet stops all knee-action; and the back, which is situated under the body of the trap, is so constructed as to avoid the jolting caused by passing over uneven surfaces. This is the easiest and lightest trap I have ever ridden in; and for long journeys is less fatiguing to man and horse than most. The only drawback to it is the fault appertaining to most gigs—the egress. It is very elegantly and strongly built.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

Oxfordshire.

Dr. W. C.—

DR. WM. SMYTH.-To what solution does our correspondent refer?

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

Mr. Vincent Jackson, Welverhampton; Dr. C. R. Francis, London; Dr. Bell Fletcher, Learnington; Mr. W. Fuller, London; Dr. Crichton Browne, London; M.B.; Dr. Thomas Thursfield, Leamington; Mr. E. W. Wallis, London; Mr. H. A. Latimer, Swansea; Experimentia Docet; Dr. J. W. Cook, Manningtree; Dr. W. A. Satchell, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. James Lyon, Glasgow; Dr. S. Dyer, Ringwood; Dr. G. H. De Wolfe, Dore; Mr. Shirley F. Murphy, London; Mr. Richard Jeffreys, Totnes; Messrs. Stodder and Co.; Mr. E. G. Peck, London'; Mr. F. Reed, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Mr. M. R. J. Behrendt, Doncaster; Dr. S. Rees Phillips, Exeter; Mr. M. Cameron, Liverpool; Mr. W. Y. Martin, Walkden; Mr. Francis Toulmin, Upper Clapton; Mr. Lawrence Hamilton, London; Dr. Stainthorpe, Hexham; Dr. Charles Mercier, Leavesden Asylum; Mr. C. S. Lock, London; Professor Haughton, Dublin; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Mr. Arthur H. Benson, Dublin; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. Marion Sole, Devonport; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. J. W. Allen, Glasgow; Dr. W. Smyth, Banbridge; Dr. R. C. Smith, Ardwick; Mr. C. Roberts, London; Dr. J. H. Hay, Alloa; Dr. F. Partridge, Stroud; Mr. G. Cartland, Windsor; Mr. T. Sympson, Lincoln; Dr. W. Macewen, Glasgow; Mr. J. Branson, Rotherham; Mr. A. Cooper, London; Dr. F. Milford, New South Wales; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Boerner, Berlin; Mr. M. F. Bury, Barnet; Mr. W. Webster Hoare, Tadcaster; Dr. E. Markham Skerritt, Clifton; Mr. R. Bird Williams, Newport; Mr. G. H. Darwin, Manchester; Mr. J. F. Blade, London; Dr. C. E. Shelly, Hertford; Dr. W. H. Broadbent, London; Dr. Graham Browne, Edinburgh; Dr. A. Ogston, Aberdeen; L. E. X.; Dr. Sutherland, London; Mr. James Hinds, Halstead; Inquirer, Wandsworth; Squire, Fox, and Co., London; Dr. J. Ingleby Mackenzie, London; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Drainage for Health, or Easy Lessons in Sanitary Science. By Joseph Wilson, M.D. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston.

The Retrospect of Medicine. Edited by W. Braithwaite, M.D. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

Year-Book of Pharmacy. London: J. and A. Churchill.

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