

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.

DIFFUSION OF DISEASE BY MILK.

SIR.—Would some of your able readers who are acquainted with the facts of the case referred to under the above heading, in which a farmer was convicted at the Reigate County Court in £5 and costs, give us further information about them? For instance, how the case came into the County Court? Who was the prosecutor? What are the relations at Reigate between "the sanitary officers" who were "censured", and the police, to whom it is alleged that they ought to have given information? There are points in the story which seem at present somewhat mysterious, and upon which further light would be very desirable.—A. M. T., BOND, M.D.

FRANCIS T. BOND, M.D.

DR. J. WILSON PATON (Rockferry).—Mr. Malcolm A. Morris, 63, Montagu Square, W., for cases; Mr. Herbert W. Page, 146, Harley Street, W., for financial matters.

THE STOMACH-PUMP.

SIR,—Will any of your readers be good enough to inform me to whom we owe the invention of the stomach-pump, when the invention occurred, and by whom it was developed into its present maturity?—Yours faithfully, QUÆSTOR.

COLONEL TOTTENHAM'S QUESTION, AND IRISH LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

SIR.—I would ask you to give me space for some remarks on the claims latterly advanced by the small corps' of eight asylum-assistants to monopolise the medical superintendentships to the Irish county asylums. These claims vitally affect Irish Poor-law medical officers, who are one thousand in number, and who have the very strongest claims on these appointments.

Colonel Tottenham, in the House of Commons, asked the chief secretary, Why the claims of the assistants had been overlooked in the case of Carlrow, and what special qualifications Dr. O'Meara had for the office? Now, sir, as the chairman of assistants to exclude everybody but themselves, I would simply observe as follows:—1. These eight gentlemen can advance no professional claim, or point to any professional work done, which could in anywise distinguish them from the most obscure dispensary officer from one end of the island to the other. 2. They can advance no claims, founded on pecuniary sacrifices in the public service, for starting, as they do, on a level, in regard to professional antecedents, with the lowliest applicant for a dispensary, they, as a matter of fact, receive better pay. 3. It is held by everybody outside the charmed circle of eight that the training of the general physician constitutes the best preparation for the after-cultivation of special domains of medical science. This doctrine receives a remarkable illustration in connection with these very asylums, in the fact that the consulting physicians to those asylums are always selected from general physicians. Thus it happens that the physician who is to be appealed to by these very superintendents in a case of difficulty is himself a Poor-law medical officer, who has never had the alleged experience of an assistant. The doctrine has received, however, a much more notable illustration from the other side of the Atlantic, where the National Association for the Insane has, with the full concurrence of the chief medical superintendents, actually proposed to supplement the deficiencies of these very superintendents by supplying each asylum with a consulting staff taken from the ranks of general practising physicians. 4. The two hundred hospital Poor-law medical officers have opportunities constantly furnished to them, in their respective hospitals, for cultivating this special domain, in addition to the general circuit of practice. 5. Having regard to the help given to diagnosis by patients in possession of their faculties, no physician, without long years of experience, would be at all fit to make a diagnosis, in the majority of cases, with the scant help which demented cases can afford. The fact is, an attempt is being made by a few gentlemen, who are certainly not in the front rank of their calling, to impose on the supposed ignorance of high officials; and this is sought to be supported by questions put by political partisans in the House of Commons. I would earnestly press on Irish Poor-law medical officers to bestir themselves; and, among other things, not to permit, without protest, any association or journal supported by them to trifle with their just claims with respect to those appointments. For once, might is on the side of right; and it will be the fault of my poorly paid and hard-worked Poor-law brethren if they be much longer deprived of the modest reward with which asylum-appointments would furnish them after their labours and sufferings. Let each in his own district labour for the amalgamation of the lunatic and Poor-law services. The public interest also calls for this.—I am, etc.,

THOMAS LAFFAN.

THOMAS LAFFAN.

DR. J. L. STEPHENSON.—Letters and pamphlet duly received.

THE USE OF THYMOL IN RINGWORM.

A PAPER by Mr. Malcolm Morris appeared in the *Lancet* of February 12th, 1887, recommending the use of thymol for ringworm in the following form: R Thymol (vel menthol) ʒss; chloroform ʒij; olei olivæ ʒvj. M. To be painted or gently rubbed on the part.

IMPERFORATE HYMEN.

SIR, —I was sent for one night, some months ago, to see a young girl who was said to be very ill. On arrival at the house, I found a well-nourished, well-developed girl of sixteen, rolling about the bed just like a woman in labour, and was in intense pain in the bottom of the bowels, dry tongue. The temperature was 101°. The pain had commenced two days before, and was increasing in severity. This was the third similar attack; the first occurring two months, and the second a month, previous to the present one. She had never menstruated, and, on examination, I found a hard tumour, just reaching above the pubes, and about the size of a well-contracted uterus just after delivery. On examining *per vaginam*, there was a complete hymen protruding, and very tense to the touch. I punctured the bag with a trocar. About forty ounces of thick treacly fluid came away, giving immediate relief. I then made a conical incision in the hymen, and plugged with carbolised lint. She recovered without a bad symptom, and has since menstruated regularly and without the slightest pain.—I am, yours, etc.,

St. Thomas, Swansea, February 1881. E. B. EVANS, L.R.C.P., etc.

NIGEL.—The dictates of humanity must always have the first claim in an emergency, especially in the case of a woman in labour. Our correspondent must, therefore, obey the voice of nature and conscience in each case, and weigh the various considerations for himself. We cannot undertake to decide beforehand.

SPASMODIC WRYNECK.

SIR,—I shall be very much obliged to any of your correspondents who will tell me where I can read what is known on the subject of spasmodic wryneck, as all I have been able to find in the text-books is very meagre. —I am, etc.,
INQUIRER.

THE writer will be much obliged for any information, rules, etc., in reference to provident dispensaries established in connection with existing hospitals. Address, Dr. Meredith, Week Street, Maidstone.

MULTIPLE LIPOMATA.

Sir.—Edwin L., aged 66, a farm-labourer, enjoying very good health except that, during the last twelve months, he has suffered from slight attacks of rheumatism. He gives no history of any syphilis. About eight years ago, he noticed a couple of small pimples on his forearm and also on the front of the thigh, which itched intolerably, and which he scratched till they broke. Very soon afterwards, he noticed that small pimples began to grow in the neighbourhood of the pimples, which rapidly enlarged, and then the itching ceased. At present, he presents a very peculiar appearance when naked, the body being covered all over with tumours, which in places are linked together in a regular rope. They are for the most part loosely placed in the connective tissue, the skin being perfectly movable over them, and they moving freely over the subjacent parts; an exception, however, exists in the case of three or four tumours on the front of the right forearm, which are attached to the tissues above and below. The parts mostly affected are in order as follows: forearm, fore part of thigh, front of abdomen. There are about thirty on the forearms, and about twenty-five on the thighs. In all, there are upwards of two hundred tumours all over the body above the size of marbles, many being as large as walnuts. There are hundreds of smaller ones scattered all over the body. There is a tumour under the angle of the jaw, about the size of an orange, but apparently of a different kind, being softer and more elastic, the others presenting the ordinary character of fatty tumours. He suffers no pain or any inconvenience from the presence of these multitudinous excrescences.—I am, Sir, yours sincerely, J. LLEWELLYN TREHARNE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

EWELLYN TREHARNE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

A NORTH OF ENGLAND MEMBER.—The use of a Queen's reading lamp with green paper shade and blue glass chimney would be advantageous.

PRECOCIOUS MATERNITY.

SIR,—After a somewhat lingering labour of twenty-four hours' duration, A. W., aged fourteen, was safely delivered by me with the long forceps on Saturday night, March 5th. The child, a fine healthy girl, was born alive; and both she and the mother are doing well. The father, I regret to say, is a married man of over fifty. It might be of interest to your readers if other members of our profession would state their experience in cases of precocious maternity.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,
H. GEARY DYER, L.M.R.C.P.E., etc.

H. GEARY DYER, L.R.C.P.E., etc.

H. T.—We do not think our correspondent has any legal remedy; and should strongly advise him not to entertain the question.

MEDICAL PEERAGES.

THE *Lyon Medical* relates that, under Louis Philippe, Dr. Doulte was offered a peerage on condition of resigning active medical practice. He declined it coupled with that condition; and never received the proffered title. The reason for imposing the condition was coarsely stated by a member of the Upper Chamber as: "Je ne veux pas pour collègue, avoir le Comte de S..., un homme à qui je puis tous les jours montrer mon C..., pour vingt francs."

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BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL:

Being the Journal of the British Medical Association.

No. 1054.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1881.

{Registered as
a Newspaper.} 6d.

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