

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.

THE HIGH ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.

SIR.—In answer to "Medical Meteorologist's" query (the outcome of the recent high atmospheric pressure, the highest reading being 30.986, and recent sickness), "Was there any connection between the physiological and meteorological disturbance?" I think most medical practitioners, particularly those in rural districts, will answer in the affirmative. I cannot recall to mind such a genial fine season, dry over-head and under-foot, and what winds we have had really enjoyable than otherwise, and a very fair amount of sunshine; and yet what amount of sickness has there been all around, and illnesses of a very severe, and in a great many instances of a fatal, type. Pulmonary and gastric affections have been very ripe. I never remember them more so at any season of the year; and yet, why should it be so? We have always been taught to believe in a severe slushy winter, with a continuance of northerly and north-easterly winds, as being the factor of all pulmonary mischief, that if anything could be more effectually brought forward than our present mild season to refute such an opinion, I am at a loss to know what could. I have long been of the opinion that some sepsis is at the bottom of it all, and which is more easily introduced into our bodies through the different channels under favourable circumstances, such as heat and consequent evaporation from the surface of newly turned soils, such as we are at present, and have been for some little time, surrounded with. I have been satisfied, from the history of cases of acute bronchopneumonia, occurring in strong and previously healthy subjects, that they were cases of blood-poisoning *pur et simple*, and that no supposed cold, or exposure to draught or wetting, had anything whatever to do with the causation of the attack, and I rely far less on local treatment and expectorants than I would on quinine, good nutriment, a fair quantity of stimulants, and good nursing; in other words, treating the case as a specific fever with a septic origin.

In the several outbreaks of scarlet fever we have had in the villages around, and off a fatal type too, strange to say, they have always been early in the year, when the seasons have been mild, and when the gardens of the cottagers (where the excrements of fever patients have been buried), and the fields around, are being prepared for the sowing of the different vegetables and crops. I am inclined to think that we living in the country have more illnesses in early spring than our town friends; and I cannot help regarding the emanations from the soil as being in a great measure accountable for it.—Yours truly,

E. T. T.

SHIP-SURGEONIES.

SIR.—Would you kindly tell me whether a double qualification is essential for applicants for ship-surgeonies? Are such appointments difficult to procure without influence?—Faithfully yours,

A RECENT MEMBER.

SCHOOL-BOARDS AND MEDICAL FEES.

SIR.—Can you, or any member of the profession, tell me who is the person responsible for the payment of the fee charged for the medical certificate required by the School-Board for a child's non-attendance through illness? Sometimes the parents pay it themselves, and sometimes I do not get it at all. I have repeatedly told the parents to insist on having the fee before delivering up the certificate; but in no case that I know have they been able to get it. It has been definitely stated in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL that the School-Board is liable, but I should be glad to know which individual should pay it.—Yours obediently,

J. NUGENT GRIFFITH, M.R.C.S.Eng., etc.

43, Northumberland Terrace, Everton, Liverpool, Feb. 22nd, 1882.

* * * According to the decision of the magistrate at the Southwark Police-court, which we noticed in a recent leader, it appears that the School-Board requiring the certificate mentioned by our correspondent would be liable to pay for it. We would advise him to apply for the settlement of his fees to the clerk of the board, and if he cannot obtain them from this body, it would be expedient to write to the Education Department for this purpose. From reliable information we have received, we believe, however, that this Department do not acknowledge the responsibility of school-boards generally to pay for medical certificates of the inability of children to attend their schools on account of illness; although, from the report of the case tried in the Southwark magistrates' court, it is evident that they approved of the payment by the school-board for a medical certificate required by one of its officers for the non-attendance of a child at school from sickness, notwithstanding the Board disputed its liability for the fee.

ULCERS AFTER USE OF BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.

SIR.—Can any of your readers tell me of a good local application for ulcers due to the continued use of bromide of potassium? The ulcers are pouring forth a rather fetid secretion.—I am, etc.,

PRACTITIONER.

PRURITUS ANI.

SIR.—In reply to an inquirer in your correspondence column, I feel bound to give my experience of this troublesome disease. I had already tried most of the remedies recommended without receiving any permanent benefit. The disease had lasted over three years, and was becoming more and more troublesome. I thought it primarily depended upon a gouty diathesis, and I placed myself upon the strictest regimen: avoided all kinds of pastry, sugar, etc.; from being very temperate, I became all but a total abstainer; and, as a country practitioner, I had a large amount of exercise. The disease has now ceased from troubling me for twelve months, and I am hoping I may fairly say it is now cured. The remedy from which I received (after a continuance of the restricted diet for some time) most benefit was self-control, never irritating the seat by scratching, and always, after defaecating, making use of a soft sponge dipped in cold water and soap, aided with an occasional use of an ointment of equal parts of oleate of mercury and extract of belladonna. Upon the continued use of these means the irritation has ceased, and the at one time exquisite torture—I can call it nothing else—has entirely passed away.—I am, etc.,

H. J. F.

NEW DISEASES.

SIR.—A valuable paper has just been printed for the Isle of Wight guardians, in the form of a list of paupers, who were such during the half-year ending Michaelmas 1881. The value of the paper does not consist in the information of who were paupers six months ago, but in revealing the existence of certain complaints that seem to be peculiar to the island. Among these are: "dolor later", "nobilis cordis", "varitis", "pleurozoma", "amenorola", "febriac", and "pyrecia". As the Isle of Wight is in repute as a health-resort, it is to be hoped that these disorders are not infectious.—I am, sir, yours,

V. ECTIS.

VACCINATION WITH CALF-LYMPH.

DR. T. H. HAYLE of Rochdale writes us, giving his recent experience of primary and secondary vaccination with calf-lymph. Of ten primary vaccinations, none failed; and of one hundred and forty-two cases of revaccination, only three failed. One of the failures took on being vaccinated a second time. Of the successful cases, twenty-three took strongly, one hundred and twenty well, and six slightly. By taking strongly, Dr. Hayle means when the inflammation spreads below the elbow. He found that, under ten years of age, no cases took strongly.

SIR.—In answer to one of your correspondents, "J. H. T.", in your last weekly issue, I beg to say that Haresceugh's excreta pails are manufactured by Messrs. Haresceugh and Co., Bentinck Street, Leeds.—I am, yours obediently, Biddiford, Alcester, February 16th, 1882. G. H. FOSROKE, S.Sc.C.Cantab.

PRISONERS WITH TYPHUS.

At a meeting of the Bristol guardians lately, the chairman called attention to the case of a man who, whilst suffering from typhus fever, and having been found in the streets by the police in an unconscious state, was charged with being drunk, and, upon the statement of a police-constable, committed for seven days. At prison it is alleged that his malady was discovered, and he was discharged the day before the expiration of his sentence, without communication being made to the medical officer; and the poor fellow going to the workhouse, it was seen that he was suffering from spotted typhus in an advanced stage.

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

Mr. W. Marriott, London; Mr. Edward Smith, Bolton; Mr. B. Bell, Edinburgh; Dr. Carroll, New Brighton, New York; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Mr. A. S. Currie, London; Mr. H. B. Walker, Lowestoft; Messrs. W. and A. Bradshaw, Nottingham; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. H. D. Roberts, Deptford; Dr. John Williams, London; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Mr. Eustace Firth, Beckenham; Messrs. E. Street and Co., London; Mr. Timothy Holmes, London; Mr. Litton Forbes, London; Mr. D'Arcy Power, London; Dr. Brailey, London; Mr. C. W. Hemming, Edinburgh; Dr. T. Churton, Leeds; Mr. W. H. Lamb, London; Dr. E. Rickards, Birmingham; Dr. G. W. Potter, London; The Military Secretary, India Office; Mr. C. R. Illingworth, Clayton-le-Moors; Mr. E. Philip Lydlow, Leicester; Dr. A. M. Alcock, Innishannon; Mr. E. Cresswell Baber, Brighton; Mr. W. A. S. Walsh, Worcester; Dr. Whittle, Belfast; Dr. J. M. Redmond, Dublin; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Surgeon-Major Evatt, Woolwich; Dr. J. Carrick Murray, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. Pye-Smith, London; Mr. J. R. Thomas, Llanelli; Mr. E. W. Wallis, London; Dr. Tripe, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Shirley F. Murphy, London; Mr. W. K. Parker, London; Dr. Crichton Browne, London; Mr. S. H. Lindeman, Lynn; Mr. W. Stamford, Tunbridge Wells; Mr. T. Pridgin Teale, Leeds; Dr. Percy Boulton, London; Dr. J. Patterson Cassells, Glasgow; Mr. B. J. Tuck, Seaford; Mr. James Limont, Glasgow; Dr. H. M. Johnstone, Stranorlar; Dr. Ewald, Berlin; Dr. T. Jackson, Hull; Mr. J. Dougall, York; Mr. J. R. Lunn, London; Mr. A. Griffith, Manchester; Dr. Fitzgerald, Ponteland; Dr. Galabin, London; Dr. Philpott, Bournemouth; Dr. Althaus, London; Dr. J. F. Howard, Sheam; Mr. Robert Birch, Newbury; Dr. N. Knox, Glasgow; Mr. J. R. Lunn, London; Mr. George Meadows, Hastings; Mr. T. Jackson, Hull; Mr. E. F. Scougal, Huddersfield; Mr. H. E. Allen, London; Dr. D'Oyly Grange, Moffat; Mr. R. Watson, London; Mr. W. Holloway, Kidderminster; Mr. R. Amunay, Stockport; Mr. J. J. Sargent, Worcester; Dr. Malins, Birmingham; Mr. J. Oliver, Durham; Dr. Ransome, Bowden; Editor of *Practitioner*, London; Mr. Walter Whitehead, Manchester; Mr. A. H. Wildy, London; Mr. D. T. Evans, Manchester; Mr. T. Thompson, London; Mr. J. F. West, Birmingham; Mr. Alfred Benson, Sutton; Mr. Walter Brown, Gloucester; Mr. E. J. Adams, Sheffield; Dr. Brett, Watford; Mr. Alfred E. Harris, Sunderland; Dr. Duffey, Dublin; Dr. C. McLean, London; Mr. Arthur Cooper, London; Dr. Ormsby, Dublin; Dr. Burney Yeo, London; Mr. Bennett May, Birmingham; Mr. O. B. Shewell, London; Mr. Whitton, Worcester; Dr. A. Filson, Portaferry; Dr. R. Sarell, Constantinople; Mr. W. Wilson, Carlisle; Mr. C. Roberts, London; Dr. Colie, Homerton; Dr. C. S. Clouston, Gunnersbury; Mr. Herbert E. Wright, London; Mr. H. Rogers Tillstone, Wigan; Mr. Joseph Hadley, London; etc.

BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Garden of Hyres. By A. Smith. London: Fleet Street Printing Works. 1881. Leprosy in British Guiana. By J. D. Hillis. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1881. A Practical Treatise on Materia Medica and Therapeutics. By R. Bartholow, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1881.

Schematic Anatomy. By W. P. Mears. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1881.

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