

## MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

SIR,—You would oblige by giving your opinion on the following case. For two or three years I have been medical attendant to Mr. M. and family. On March 19th, I was asked to attend a child of his, and described for him. At six o'clock next morning, Mr. M. called, and wanted to know if I would go and see the child again, and added that Dr. B. was in his house (Mr. M.'s) at that moment, and would wait for me. As I had not had previous intimation of this movement, and as the case was not one which required a second opinion, I declined to go. Dr. B. continued in attendance since, but did not communicate with me. As I never wish to treat a brother practitioner with discourtesy or unfairness, would you kindly give your opinion on the following points?

1. As I was not informed either by Mr. M. or by Dr. B. that the latter would be called in, until after he had seen the patient, and as the case did not require a second opinion, was I right in refusing to go? I had no objection to meet Dr. B., but I had every objection to see Mr. M.'s child after his discourteous treatment of me.

2. Did Dr. B. treat me fairly in going to see the child under the circumstances, and in continuing in attendance when he knew the manner in which I was treated? Were I called to see a case of his under similar circumstances, I would not go if I knew that he was in attendance; or, if I did not know of his attendance until after I reached the patient's house, I certainly would leave immediately, and would not call again without his sanction. I may add that the houses of Dr. B., Mr. M., and myself, are within five minutes' walk of each other.

3. Should not Dr. B. have given me some explanation of his conduct ere this? I ask your opinion merely for the object of guiding my future conduct correctly under similar circumstances, and for the reasons given immediately before my questions.—I am, etc.,  
Co. CORK.

\* Without a knowledge of all the attendant circumstances, it is ever a matter of difficulty to arrive at a just conclusion in cases of presumed ethical delinquency; and, in the present instance, much necessarily depends on Dr. B.'s cognisance or ignorance of the fact that C. C. was in attendance upon the child. Assuming, however, that Dr. B. was not informed of it until after he had seen the patient, it would, on the fact transpiring, then be his duty to decline all interference in the case, unless a pressing emergency had arisen; having provided for which, he should, either in person or by note, have at once communicated the circumstances to C. C., and requested a consultation. The early hour (6 A.M.) at which C. C.'s advice was again sought, would seem to indicate that some presumed unfavourable symptoms had excited the parents' anxiety. In such case, Mr. M. should have waited upon, or written to, C. C., and expressed his wish for a "second opinion", before calling in Dr. B. That Mr. M. has treated C. C. with great discourtesy, there cannot, we think, be a doubt; and, in regard to Dr. B., it is to be regretted that, contrary to the courteous and recognised duty of the profession, he should have failed to offer an explanation, personally or by letter. C. C. will find rules laid down for the guidance of practitioners in such cases, in chapter ii, section 5, of the *Code of Medical Ethics*, published by Messrs. Churchill.

L.K.Q.C.P.I.—Neale's *Medical Digest* is published by Ledger, Smith, and Co.,  
St. Mary Axe.

### IRRITABLE BLADDER.

SIR,—In reply to "Member British Medic. Assoc.," in your JOURNAL of April 8th, I beg to say that, in some cases of irritable bladder in women, perchloride of iron seems to cure. I have only used it in cases in which it could not be traced to excessively acid urine, nor local disease, nor disease of adjacent viscera. In one case, the addition of minute doses of tincture of cantharides appeared beneficial. Marked anaemia does not appear to be a necessary indication for its use.—Yours faithfully, L.K.Q.C.P.I.

SIR,—In response to your correspondent in Iowa, let me say that his interesting case of irritable bladder might perhaps indicate oxaluria, with, possibly, an undetected calculus in the bladder. I need not dwell on the latter as a cause of irritable bladder. Oxaluria we know to be irritating to the whole genito-urinary system, and, I apprehend, conducive to barrenness. If our brother in the West should succeed in curing the irritable bladder, his patient ("several years married, but never pregnant") may yet become the happy mother of children. Meantime, it can, at least, do no harm if he satisfy himself as to the possibility of the existence in the bladder of a calculus, and lay down a wholesome regimen for his patient. If she live, for the most part, on corn-cakes, dough-nuts, pies—all undue supply of these, and of all foods consisting mainly of hydro-carbons, should be cut off. If she live an inactive life indoors, she should be made to take active exercise, so as to throw off, through lungs and skin, as carbonic acid, the hydro-carbons, some of which, imperfectly oxygenated, must else remain to be eliminated painfully through the kidneys, causing oxaluria. If the drinking-water she uses be hard, from salts of lime, that may be remedied best by putting her on a milk-diet. If she do not use the daily sponge-bath, she should be induced to begin; taking care that the temperature of the bath-room, as well as of the water, is equable throughout the year, as far as possible, so as to give a good reaction. Occasionally, where exposure and sponging of the entire body at one time is found not to be followed by this good reaction, the patient might sponge from the waist upwards in the morning, and from the waist downwards at night; or, should the latter interfere with the night's rest, the next morning.

will in slight cases, or next morning, if it is tolerably severe, be relieved by the use of the decoctions of linseed and pearl-barley, acting mechanically as a gelatinous coating of the bladder against the irritating urine. In such a case as this, flavour and perhaps superior efficacy may be added to these rather insipid demulcents by means of a little nitro-chloric ether, the formula for which is, one part of chloroform to nineteen parts of spirit of nitrous ether; and the dose the same as the old chloric ether or spirit of nitrous ether. The bladder relieved, I should try the good effects of the diuretic, nitro-chloric form. The bladder relieved, I should try the good effects of the diuretic, nitro-chloric form. The bladder relieved, I should try the good effects of the diuretic, nitro-chloric form.

E. O. R.

### TRICYCLES.

SIR,—Two or three years ago, some correspondence took place in these columns respecting the utility of tricycles in country practice. No doubt many members were induced thereby to try them. Sufficient time has now elapsed to test their value, and many like myself, who grumble at having to keep two horses, would like to learn what their verdict is.—Believe me, sir, your obedient servant,

COUNTRY DOCTOR.

SIR,—I shall be much obliged if some of your subscribers will, either privately or through your columns, help me to find a suitable place (not an asylum) for a lady patient, who, though not insane, is not quite of sound mind. Terms must be moderate. I shall be glad to give further particulars to anyone wishing them.—I am, sir, yours truly,  
GEORGE W. MALINS.

Drake Street, Rochdale, April 12th, 1882.

### ENDOMETRITIS.

SIR,—I should advise your correspondent, "A Young Member", to give a fair trial to the local application of iodised phenol for the cure of this troublesome complaint. I have just succeeded in curing by its means two very obstinate cases. I make the iodised phenol by melting together three drachms of crystallised carbolic acid with two of resublimed iodine, and adding one drachm of glycerine. I take a Playfair's probe, wrapped with cotton-wool, and well dipped in the phenol, and apply it to the internal surface of the uterus once a week or ten days; and I have certainly found it by far the most efficacious thing I have used. I have had success with the zinc points, propelled into the uterus by an ingenious little instrument sold by Maw, but I do not think this treatment nearly equal to the phenol, especially where the endometritis has had a gonorrhoeal origin. Of course, tonic treatment, and the daily use of the uterine douche, should be persisted with.—Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD BERNER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.D.

fully, EDWARD BERDOE,  
Tynemouth House, Victoria Park Gate, London, E.

THE *Medical Student's Register*, as well as other publications of the Medical Council, may be obtained from Messrs. Spottiswoode and Co., 30, Parliament Street, S.W.

### HOME FOR AN EPILEPTIC PATIENT.

SIR,—Will any member of the British Medical Association kindly inform me if there is an institution where a patient who suffers from epilepsy, and whose attacks at times are so aggravated that he becomes insane and beyond control, could be taken care of while this condition lasts? The patient is twenty-seven years of age, and has never been able to follow any employment. He is dependent upon his father, who is only in moderate circumstances, and unable to pay much for such convenience.—Yours faithfully,  
H. B. NOBLE, M.B., M.A.

62, Tasman Road, Clapham, S.W., April 12th, 1882.

DENTIST.—Tomes's *Dental Surgery* (Churchill); Coleman's *Dental Surgery* (Smith, Elder, and Co.); Coles's *Dental Mechanics* (Churchill).

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

Dr. A. J. H. Crespi, Wimborne; Dr. W. E. Buck, Leicester; Dr. T. W. Hime, Sheffield; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Mr. R. W. Greenish, Vienna; Dr. S. Wilks, London; Mr. H. D. Noble, Clapham; Mr. G. Jerrard, London; Mr. T. Dalton, Sidleham; E. O. R.; Dr. W. J. Mackie, Turvey; Mr. J. B. Baldwin, Rotherham; Mr. H. Eales, Birmingham; Mr. W. H. Lamb, London; Messrs. Jones and Barber, London; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Creighton, London; Dr. Herman, London; Dr. D. N. Knox, Glasgow; Mr. R. S. Fowler, Bath; Messrs. Maguire and Son, Dublin; Mr. A. Leveson, London; Mr. Arthur H. Benson, Dublin: Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. Mark H. Judge, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. J. E. Ingpen, London; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Dr. R. L. Batterbury, Berkhamstead; Mr. R. Beadles, London; Dr. D. H. Cullimore, London; Mr. Creswell Rich, Liverpool; Dr. Stevenson, London; Mr. J. Lloyd Roberts, Denbigh; Mr. Eustace Firth, Debenham; Mr. Cresswell Baber, Brighton; Mr. Litton Forbes, London; Mr. G. W. Dickson, Dunkeld; Dr. J. Jones, Louisiana; Dr. W. S. Paget, Great Crosby; Dr. J. Johnson Bailey, Marple; Mr. Herbert Collier, London; Mr. F. E. Manby, Wolverhampton; Dr. A. Ogston, Aberdeen; Dr. Maclean, Netley; Mr. W. J. Laud, Tunbridge; Mr. T. W. C. Jones, London; Dr. G. W. Potter, London; Dr. E. J. Tilt, London; Dr. Octavius Sturges, London; The Right Honourable H. C. E. Childers, London; Mr. A. McKendrick, Warrington; Mr. Balmanno Squire, London; Dr. Braidwood, Birkenhead; Mr. W. K. Parker, London; Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, London; Mr. George R. Jesse, Henbury, Macclesfield; Mr. Chute, Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony; Mr. H. G. Armstrong, Reading; Dr. E. S. Thompson, London; Dr. Wm. Gayton, Homerton; Dr. Hime, Sheffield; Mr. Robert Cuffie, Horncastle; Mr. B. G. Morison, London; Mr. G. C. Rowland, Richmond; Dr. Thomas, Glasgow; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Dr. Charles Orton, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Dr. T. Laffan, Cashel; Dr. Cullingworth, Manchester; Dr. F. J. Allan, London; Dr. T. W. Treid, Southampton; Mr. A. Holdsworth, Leicester; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Mr. G. G. Sharp, Walsall; Mr. A. Hallowes, Maidstone; Mr. Reginald Harrison, Liverpool; Dr. Greenhill, Hastings; Mr. Lycett, Wolverhampton; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Medical Adviser in Life-Assurance. By E. H. Sieveking, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1882.

The Diseases of the Spinal Cord. By B. Bramwell, M.D. Edinburgh: Mac-lachlan and Stewart. 1882.

**SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE  
"BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL".**

Seven lines and under	..	..	..	..	..	..	£0 3 6
Each additional line	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 4
A whole column	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 15 0
A page .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 0 0

.. ..  
An average line contains eight words.

When a series of insertions of the same advertisement is ordered, a discount is made on the above scale in the following proportions, beyond which no reduction can be allowed.

For 6 insertions, a deduction of .. .. . 10 per cent.

For 6 insertions, 2 additions or 1 deletion	..	..	..	..	..	20	..
" 12 or 13 "	"	"	"	"	"	25	"
" 26 "	"	"	"	"	"	30	"
" 52 "	"	"	"	"	"	30	"

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, at the Office, not later than Twelve o'Clock on the Wednesday preceding publication; and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association, at the West Central Post-Office, High Holborn. Small amounts may be sent in postage stamps.