

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.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE ON RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

SIR,—In two instances, I have been summoned by a servant of a railway company to give medical assistance to passengers taken ill at their station. In both cases, the messenger was sent by the person in chief authority at the station. I have sent in a claim to the company, which, however, they repudiate. Will you kindly inform me in your answers to correspondents whether I can recover the amount of my claim in the county court, and if so, cite some legal authority which I may make use of. I think you will see that the question is one which materially affects the profession at large.—Yours faithfully,
H. G. ARMSTRONG.
160, Friar Street, Reading, April 17th, 1882.

Upon referring to the only two cases reported relating to the query of our correspondent, we regret to state that he cannot legally recover his claim against the railway company for the medical services rendered by him to the sick passengers at their station. In the case of "Cox v. the Midland Railway Company", it was decided, in the Court of Exchequer in 1849, that it is not incident to the employment of a station-master of a railway to enter into a contract with a surgeon to attend a passenger injured by an accident on such railway, and therefore the defendants, on whose railway a passenger was injured by an accident, were not liable to the plaintiff, a surgeon, who sued them for medical services rendered to the former at the request of one of their station-masters. In delivering the judgment of the court, Mr. Baron Parke remarked that "It is not to be supposed that the result of our decision will be prejudicial to railway travellers who may happen to be injured. It will rarely occur that the surgeon will not have a remedy against the patient, who, if he be rich, must at all events pay; and, if poor, the sufferer will be entitled to compensation from the company, if they by their servants have been guilty of a breach of duty, out of which he will be able to pay the surgeon's bill, for that is always allowed for in estimating the damages. There will, therefore, be little mischief to the interests of the passengers, little to the benevolent surgeons who give their services; but it would be a serious inconvenience to the public if the rule of law, as applicable not merely to railway companies, but to all partnerships and individuals, as to the extent of authority given to an agent, were relaxed out of a compassionate feeling, which it is difficult not to entertain towards the suffering party, the present plaintiff." In the case, however, of "Walker v. the Great Western Railway Company", decided in the same court in 1867, it was held that the general manager of a railway company had an implied authority to engage a medical man to attend upon a servant of a company who suffers an accident on a railway, and that, therefore, the company were liable for his fees.

VERTIGO AMONGST COAL-MINERS.

SIR,—In answer to "A Junior Member's" letter in the JOURNAL of April 8th, under the above heading, I write to say that this vertigo is always associated with, and is probably due to "Miner's Nystagmus". Its proper treatment is to discontinue the cause—mining; to improve the general health and nutrition; while the internal administration of iron and strychnine seems to be beneficial.

In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for July 30th, 1881, "A Junior Member" will see a letter by myself giving an epitome of the symptoms, etc., in these cases, and references to the writings of others, both here and on the Continent.—Yours truly,
HENRY EALES.
7, Newhall Street, Birmingham, April 12th, 1882.

REPORTS ON CRIMINAL LUNATICS.

MR. W. J. LUND (Tunbridge).—1. A report of the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum is published every year, and a copy is sent to the library of the College of Surgeons, and another to that of the College of Physicians. Copies are also sent to the medical journals. 2. Criminal lunatics are detained at Broadmoor as long as it may be desirable and necessary in the interests of the public safety. The discretion with respect to granting a discharge is vested by statute in the Secretary of State for the Home Department. It does not necessarily follow that a criminal lunatic is discharged immediately the attack of insanity has passed off. Full details with respect to persons discharged are published in the annual reports of Broadmoor. The Commissioners in Lunacy also give, in their annual reports, particulars with respect to this matter. We are not aware of any published reports in detail with respect to criminal lunatics at Fisherton House Asylum; but the bulk of persons acquitted on the ground of insanity are sent to Broadmoor.

CHLOROFORM.

SIR,—In my letter on chloroform, I state that Mr. Wingate of Liverpool introduced the drug to Dr. Simpson. I am now corrected by reading a paper, showing that it was Mr. Waldie who introduced it to the professor.—Yours truly,
B. BLOWER.
119, Shaw Street, April 14th, 1882.

INVERSION OF THE UTERUS.

SIR,—I saw Mrs. T. on the night of March 2nd. She had been delivered two hours previously, the placenta being retained. The midwife removed it, but, in doing so, pulled down the uterus along with it. On my arrival, I found that my assistant (who had been called to the case, and, seeing its nature, sent for me at once) had, by compressing the inverted mass, controlled the hæmorrhage, which had been serious. I found the woman almost pulseless, and, fearing the delay likely to arise if I attempted to reinvert, I returned the uterus *en masse*, and then reinverted it by making steady pressure against the fundus for a short time. Under a steady and not too great pressure, reinversion gradually took place. The woman made a rapid recovery without a bad symptom, and is now going about.

A few years ago, I was called to a case similar to this. Unfortunately, the woman lived at a greater distance from my residence, and before I could reach her she died. If these cases have no great interest in themselves, I think they show that the midwives in the country should be under some supervision.—I am, etc.,
WILLIAM DONOVAN.
Whitwick, April 10th, 1882.

BORACIC GLYCERINE.

SIR,—It appears to me that it might be worth while that the boracic glycerine, which has been found so successful by Professor Barff in arresting the putrefaction of meat, should be tried in antiseptic surgery; an adequate aqueous solution of it would be far less irritating, as well as less poisonous, than carbolic acid, and it might prove equally efficacious.—I am, your obedient servant,
BALMANNO SQUIRE.

24, Weymouth Street, Portland Place, W., April 5th, 1882.

UNDERTAKERS ON COMMISSION.

THE connection between doctor and undertaker has, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, been a grim joke from time immemorial; but it would appear, from a letter published in an evening contemporary, that there are not wanting undertakers who look upon it as a pure matter of business. One of these gentlemen addresses private and confidential circulars to medical men, offering them a commission on any "cases" that they may put into his hands. His terms vary from 5 per cent. on a £5 funeral to 20 per cent. on a £20 funeral, and he is probably quite capable of offering 50 per cent. on a £100 funeral. He hints as much, indeed, by adding "so on in proportion". The circular, however, does not go beyond the 20 per cent., and the figures show that he only expects to trade upon the humbler class of mourners. That any class of medical men would listen to such overtures we should be loth to believe, and all who are solicited in the same way would do well to follow the example of sending the circular to the papers—name and address of the enterprising undertaker included.

F. H. W.—1. Killing an animal does not come under the Act for regulating "experiments upon living animals calculated to give pain" (clause 2). 2. When an animal is dead, you may do what you please with its body. 3. Pithing a frog so as to destroy the brain has been decided officially (as well as by the laws of nature) to be killing it. Therefore, you may do what you please with an animal after it has been killed by pithing.

STAMMERING.

SIR,—I should feel greatly obliged if any of your readers would give their experience as to the treatment of stammering.—Yours, etc.,
DEMOSIHENES.

C. W. G.—In every case in which a medical practitioner is called to visit a patient who is at the time under the care of another medical man, professional etiquette requires that he should at once communicate the fact to the medical man already in attendance; and he ought not to continue his attendance unless specially desired by the patient or the patient's friends to do so.

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

Mr. Watson Cheyne, London; Mr. H. E. Allen, London; Mr. T. M. Hovell, London; Dr. Styrup, Shrewsbury; Mr. E. G. Archer, Thetford; Dr. J. Ramsay, York; Dr. T. O. Dudfield, London; Mr. Litton Forbes, London; Dr. Broadbent, London; Mr. K. W. Millican, Kineton; Dr. W. B. Hadden, London; Dr. E. Woakes, London; Mr. B. C. A. Windle, Dublin; Mr. A. Stewart Brown, London; Mr. A. T. Winterbottom, Manchester; Mr. Hugh Hughes, Bangor; Mr. T. Whitehead Reid, Canterbury; Mr. Arthur Jackson, Sheffield; Dr. A. Sheen, Cardiff; Dr. Ford, Portsea; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. Creighton, London; Mr. A. Childs, Crewe; A Member of the Association; Dr. Glascott, Manchester; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. J. Spottiswoode Cameron, Huddersfield; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. Dougal, Strathaven; Dr. Robert Barnes, London; Mr. B. Blower, Liverpool; Mr. E. S. Newton-Clare, Calne; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. A. Teevan, London; Mr. E. White Wallis, London; Dr. Allchin, London; Mr. W. C. Blackett, Durham; Mr. H. Vevors, Hereford; Mr. Flint, Westgate-on-Sea; Dr. A. Downs, Chelmsford; Mr. J. R. Buck, Worcester; Mr. A. Wynter Blyth, London; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. R. Clement Lucas, London; Dr. C. W. Suckling, Birmingham; Mr. J. F. W. Silk, Leeds; Mr. H. H. Muggeridge, Ashford; Dr. H. Sutherland, London; Dr. J. Crichton Browne, London; Mr. H. Rooke Ley, Prestwich; Dr. Stirling, Aberdeen; Mr. J. Farrar, Morecambe; Mr. H. T. Twynan, London; Messrs. E. Greenwood and Co., London; Dr. Cronin, Queenstown; Mr. Herbert Thompson, Sevenoaks; Mr. A. E. Livsey, Walton, Liverpool; Dr. J. Macpherson, London; Mr. A. B. Jay, London; Mr. F. A. C. Fletcher, Crosshills, Leeds; Messrs. Charles Griffin and Co., London; Mr. G. Buckston Bowne, London; Mr. B. Barker, London; Dr. Stevenson, London; Mr. Arthur Milman, London; Sir Edmund Lechmere, London; Mr. Reginald Harrison, Liverpool; Mr. J. M. Sharpe, Farnley; Dr. Collie, Homerton; Mr. F. H. Weekes, York; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Zur Entwicklungsgeschichte des Spondylolisthetischen Beckens und seiner Diagnose. Von Dr. Med. Franz L. Neugebauer. Halle: Niemeyer. Dorpat: Krüger. 1882.

Medical Lexicon. By Elias Longley. London: H. Kimpton. 1882.

What to do in Case of Poisoning. By W. Murrell, M.D., M.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis. 1882.

A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Children. By J. Forsyth Meigs, M.D., and W. Pepper, M.D., LL.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1882.

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