

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 CARRIAGE TAX.

We are glad to learn from Dr. Robert Sinclair, Secretary of the Forfarshire Medical Association, that Mr. Barclay, the member for Forfarshire, intends, after the second reading of the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, to put an amendment on the paper for committee, embodying an exemption for the medical profession; and it is sincerely hoped the medical members of Parliament will give him their support in his generous efforts on their behalf. Numerous communications have also been addressed to us, promising support of members of Parliament, who have been interested in this subject through the efforts of the Parliamentary Bills Committee, of the secretaries of Branches, and of individual members of the Association.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for May 13th, there is a letter from "M. R.," proposing that doctors and clergymen should avoid the tax by painting their names on their carriages. If, indeed, this were all, the difficulty could be met (though I fear it would be thought "*infra dig.*" thus to advertise oneself) but is it not a fact that, to avoid the tax, it is needful to declare that the conveyance is used for business only, and that the rule is so strict that a doctor would not be allowed to take his wife with him unless she acted as groom? In country districts, where the journeys are long and the fees small, a doctor's wife finds it impossible to afford visits to health-resorts, and her only escape from the constant care and worry of family and household is the occasional drive with her husband to some distant patient. But this must be abandoned, unless, indeed, the wife takes the reins; even then, she dare not take a child with her, but must leave all to the care of some young servant; for few of us can either afford or obtain a competent staff of domestics. My husband has a wide club and union practice; he is fully employed all day, and often most of the night; and my only chance to talk over any matter of importance is to drive out with him. Many, I am sure, are in the same circumstances; and I protest, in the name of the class, against any rule which robs us of our one cheap luxury.—I remain, etc.,

A COUNTRY DOCTOR'S WIFE.

INSURANCE AGENCIES.

SIR,—In January last, I was treated in a manner precisely corresponding with that described by "A Young Norfolk Surgeon," in your last Saturday's issue. I am inclined to the belief that, in both cases, the "gentlemanly individual" (whose card I inclose) was one and the same person.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

A SUFFOLK SURGEON.

ASSOCIATE KING'S COLLEGE.—Professor G. F. Yeo will commence his course of three lectures on the Relation of Experimental Physiology to Practical Medicine in the theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons on Friday, the second proximo, at four o'clock.

MR. B. G. MORISON will, we believe, obtain all necessary information by writing to the Secretary of the Belgian Academy of Medicine at Brussels.

A NEW USE FOR SOLUTION OF IODINE.

SIR,—The new use of iodine to which I am to refer is not strictly a medical application, but is of interest to the chemical members of our Association. On March 2nd, when disinfecting my hands with a weak solution of iodine, about five grains to the ounce of water, a drop happened to fall upon a piece of paper, and I observed that a stain was produced similar to that given by the starch reaction. It immediately occurred to me that I had found a new writing-ink, and I accordingly made a memorandum to test the effect of time. The writing became very light-brown in six days; but now, after the lapse of more than two months, is apparently permanent, and quite legible. This fading I find to be retarded by subsequently brushing the writing over with a dilution of liquor ferri perchloridi, two drachms to the ounce of water.

Professor Crum Brown of Edinburgh University has informed me that he found the writing easily washed out with solution of hyposulphite of soda. I found liquor ammoniæ to have the same effect. This fading and easy bleaching would evidently result in an economy of paper where unimportant matters were concerned. Beyond this, I need make no remark.—I remain, etc.,

A. DRUMMOND MACDONALD, M.B. & C.M. Edin.

3, Peel Street, Dingle Hill, Liverpool.

TELEPHONE.—We are unable to answer the question.

DR. W. ANDERSON.—The matter is entirely one for the Committee of Council, and not for the Editor.

NITRITE OF AMYL AND THE CATAMENIAL FLOW.

SIR,—I should be pleased to hear, through the medium of your valuable paper, whether any of your readers have observed what I believe to be a hitherto unrecognised physiological action of the nitrite of amyl.

I have at present under my care a patient suffering from angina pectoris, who has been in the habit of inhaling the vapour of the nitrite to allay the spasm of that distressing complaint; and a married sister of the patient, who is suckling an infant, informs me that, on entering the room, the atmosphere of which is impregnated with the vapour, the menstrual flow at once commences; and that on her leaving the room, and being no longer under the influence of the drug, it immediately ceases.

The reason is, of course, perfectly obvious, but I cannot find any mention of it in my books of reference. I have mentioned this to Dr. Clifford Allbutt, who has kindly seen the case of angina with me; and he suggests that, as the drug might be used in such cases as puerperal convulsions, when such an action would possibly be in the highest degree prejudicial, I should be justified in giving publicity to this interesting fact.—I am, sir, faithfully yours,

A. T. BACON.

36, Kirkstall Road, Leeds, May 3rd, 1882.

A DANDELION CATHETER.

SIR,—I was sent some distance into the country to catheterise a paralysed elderly woman. Finding I had forgotten my catheter, I asked for a goose-quill; but the nearest procurable approach to it being a quill pen, and not caring to risk the scratching this would cause, I resolved to try a dandelion-stalk, the only other suitable thing I could think of. By choosing a strong one, and passing the most rigid end first, I managed to draw off the urine.—I am, etc.,

Eagle House, Dursley.

GEORGE R. MOORE, M.R.C.S.

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

Dr. Moriarty, Cork; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Dr. Dougal, Strathaven; Dr. Robinson, London; Dr. Samuel Gee, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. C. Roberts, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. Butcher, Dublin; Mr. Hutton, Manchester; Mr. J. Bourne, Cambridge; Dr. William Russell, Carlisle; Mr. Thomas Duke, Rugby; Mr. Balmanno Squire, London; Mr. S. W. North, York; Mr. H. A. Smith, Mere; Dr. R. Sinclair, Dundee; Mr. W. Whitton, Towcester; Mr. G. Schofield, Moseley, Manchester; M.B., M.A.; Mr. G. H. Makins, London; A. B. K.; Dr. John F. Boyce, West Brighton; Mr. William Gowans, South Shields; Dr. T. J. Walker, Peterborough; Mr. R. J. Godlee, London; Dr. E. B. Baxter, London; M. L. Denis, Brussels; Dr. Gowers, London; Mr. J. F. B. Barnes, London; Dr. Mitchell, Renton; Mr. W. G. Dreaper, Manchester; Mr. H. S. Cooke, London; Dr. F. P. Atkinson, Kingston-on-Thames; Mr. H. Cripps Lawrence, London; Dr. W. J. Tyson, Folkestone; Dr. J. Farrell Easmon, Gold Coast Colony, Fort Quetta; Mr. Samuel Bagley, Stockport; Mr. G. W. Hastings, London; Messrs. Wilkins and Co.; Dr. West, London; Mr. H. J. Knight, Rotherham; Mr. Anthony Temple, Kingston; Dr. Henry Ashby, Manchester; Mr. Thorn, London; Mr. Talfourd Ely, London; Dr. Meymott Tidy, London; Mr. R. B. Wilkins, Newport, I.W.; Mr. W. L. Jones, Llansaintffraid; Dr. Porter, Dublin; Mr. D. Biddle, Kingston-on-Thames; Dr. Pye-Smith, London; Mr. J. W. Anderson, Ulverston; Mr. C. Comyn, London; Dr. J. Finlayson, Glasgow; Mr. G. J. Baldwin, Loughborough; Mr. M. Hoff, Hamburg; Mr. E. P. Mulock, Devonport; Mr. Alfred Teevan, London; Dr. A. H. Benson, Dublin; Mr. W. Gardiner, London; Mr. Litton Forbes, London; Dr. J. Woodman, Exeter; Dr. McCombie, Deptford; Dr. T. Laffan, Cashel; Mr. S. W. Woollett, Sutton; Mr. F. Winter Clark, Bury St. Edmund's; Dr. Collie, Homerton; Dr. Herman, London; Mr. J. Hamilton, Dalbeattie, N.B.; Mr. H. Osborne Bayfield, Wandsworth; Mr. J. T. R. Davison, Norham-on-Tweed; Telephone; Mr. W. G. Nash, Rugby; Dr. Beaumont, Shirley; Mr. J. Musworth, Liverpool; Dr. T. F. Pearce, Liphook; Dr. J. E. Smith, Clifton; Mr. H. Meymott, Ludlow; Dr. S. Rees Philipps, Exeter; Mr. E. T. Crouch, Fareham; Dr. A. Hess, London; Mr. James Startin, London; Dr. Dowse, London; Dr. Thomas Donnelly, Dublin; Dr. Poole, London; Mr. P. H. Emerson, Cambridge; Mr. H. T. Thornton, Margate; Mr. R. H. B. Wickham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Fletcher Beach, Darenth; Dr. Brett, Watford; Dr. Drapes, Enniscorthy; Mr. Sidney Smith, London; Mr. Thomas Moore, Stockport; Mr. Leslie Phillips, Birmingham; Dr. Davidson, Liverpool; Mr. J. H. Crisp, Lacock; Dr. J. H. Stallard, San Francisco; Mr. G. Fleming, London; Mr. E. Rawlinson, Canterbury; Dr. R. Shingleton Smith, Clifton; Dr. C. Orton, Newcastle-under-Lyme; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Chronic Bronchitis. By J. M. Fothergill, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1882.
The Morbid Conditions of the Urine. By Chas. H. Ralfe, M.A., M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1882.
The Surgery of Deformities. By E. Noble Smith, F.R.C.S. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1882.
Vital Statistics. By Chas. T. Pearce, M.D., M.R.C.S.Eng. London: E. W. Allen 1882.
On Diet and Regimen in Sickness and Health. By Horace Dobell, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1882.
A Handbook of Therapeutics. By Sidney Ringer, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis 1882.
The Physical Signs of Pulmonary Disease. By Graham Steele, M.D. Edinburgh: MacLachlan and Stewart. 1882.
Mapother's Physiology. By J. F. Knott. Dublin: Fannin and Co. 1882.
Cookery and Housekeeping. By Mrs. Henry Reeve. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1882.
The Truth about Opium, being the Substance of Three Lectures delivered at St. James's Hall on the 9th, 16th, and 23rd February last. By William H. Brereton, late of Hong Kong. London: W. H. Allen and Co. 1882.

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