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.

MIDDLEMORE PRIZE ESSAY.

THE General Secretary of the British Medical Association acknowledges the receipt of Essay in competition for the Middlemore Prize with the motto-

"Our doubts are traitors. And make us lose the good we oft might win, By fearing to attempt."

THE following remarkable and most impertinent document is being circulated

among deutists in Dublin:
"Dublin Civil Service Medical Aid Association, Committee Rooms, 16, Eustace "Dubin Civil Service Medical Aid Association, Committee Rooms, 10, Eustages Street, 27th May, 1882.—Sir,—The above Association, embracing the Civil Service of the entire city and suburbs, has been formed for the purpose of procuring medical treatment for its members and their families. The Executive Committee are desirous of appointing a Dentist, and have directed us to ascertain whether you would attend the members at a reduced rate, and if so, the amount of reduction you propose to allow. Permit us the favour of an early reply.—We are, Sir, was aboding a course Polbert L Aller T. I. Mayning Hopeway Services."

tion you propose to allow. Permit us the favour of an early reply.—We are, Sir, your obedient servants, Robert J. Allen, T. J. Maguire, Honorary Secretaries."

The distinction between traders and professional men in the way in which they accept remuneration for their services, has clearly been lost sight of. Medical men give their services sufficiently often, to be excused from treating with contempt a proposal to accept "reduced rates" for treating prosperous persons on a wholesale basis. It is an insult to address such communications to members of the learned professions. This circular has been forwarded to us by an eminent dentist, who in sending us, what he describes as "the enclosed impertinence," expresses his indignation. We hear for the first time of this Association. Perhaps other members of the British Medical Association have been favoured with a similar circular, and can give information of what has been the progress of this Society. and can give information of what has been the progress of this Society.

CIGARETTE-SMOKING.

CIGARETTE-SMOKING.

SIR,—The smoking world is just now agitated by a rather serious question, the solution of which I have been requested to seek at your hands. It appears that confirmed cigarette-smokers do not merely, as in cigar- and pipe-smoking, draw the tobacco-smoke into the mouth and fauces, and then eject it through the lips or nostrils before it gets any further, but actually inhale it into the chest, and only eject it in a prolonged puff when it has apparently reached the minute cells of the lungs. The process is found particularly agreeable after a full meal; and though causing slight intoxication, with vertigo, to those who are unused to it, quickly engenders a craving which it is not easy to combat. The pricking sensation which is observed in the nostrils when the tyro in cigar-smoking ejects smoke through them, is not so noticeable in the bronchial tubes during the inhalation of cigarette-smoke; but possibly this is due to the fact that most cigarette-smokers have been hardened by previous cigar- or pipe-smoking, for there can be no doubt that all hardened by previous cigar- or pipe-smoking, for there can be no doubt that all tobacco-smoke produces an irritant effect on the chests of those not accustomed to

tobacco-smoke produces an irritant effect on the chests of those not accustomed to it, as seen by its setting up cough and dyspnea.

The chief point, however, to which I have been requested to direct attention is, that if the fumes from cigar, pipe, or cigarette be instantly ejected from the mouth and throat before descending into the chest, and be made to pass through a cambric handkerchief drawn tightly across the open lips, a permanent deep yellow stain, corresponding in size and shape to the opening between the lips, and having numerous spots of a darker hue pervading it, will be left on the handkerchief; but that the prolonged puff from the chest, after inhalation from a cigarette, fails under similar circumstances to produce any but a scarcely perceptible and speedily evanescent mark. Query, What, in the latter case, becomes of the substance which stains?

which stains?

I am not aware of any instances on record in which the lungs of cigarette-smokers have been specially examined. But perhaps Mr. Bond of the Westminster Hospital, or some other authority of equal note, will kindly give the matter his careful attention. It would be interesting to know whether by perseverance one could colour one's bronchial tubes as one does a meerschaum; and, if so, whether the process would be attended with risk.

or I may mention that the particular tobacco with which the experiments referred to have been made is "Wills' Three-Castle"; and lest my remarks should lead to any depreciation of this particular brand, I may further mention that a foreigner, coming from the very centre of the smoking world, has pronounced it the only form of tobacco obtainable in this country which he can smoke with any degree of

As to the rice-paper wrappers with which cigarettes are made, I have burned some in a glass case, and find that they shrivel up into minute fibres, and give off a fine impalpable smoke and vapour, which, grey in colour, just renders the glass opaque. I should not consider this beneficial to the lungs, nor yet, on the other hand, very baneful. But what of the tobacco-stain?—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Kingston-on-Thames, May 11th, 1882.

A PROBABLE AID TO THE TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.

A PROBABLE AID TO THE TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.

OR,—The following facts may be found of use in the treatment of phthisis; not being in a position to try them myself, I merely offer the suggestion. In the manufacture of tin-plate as carried out in the tin-plate works at Penclawdd, Risca, near Newport, and Llanelly, South Wales, sulphuric acid is used to clean the iron plates preparatory to the tinning process. The men employed at this work lose flesh rapidly, and assume a cachectic appearance, this being attributed to the inhalation of an atmosphere impregnated with hydrogen. To obviate this, the workmen are removed from this portion of the works to that in which the tinning process takes place, where they quickly regain their former health and condition.

In melting the tin, palm-oil is used as a flux; and it is found by actual experiment that the oil, heated to the temperature of molten tin, volatilises, the air of the apartment in which the workmen now are placed being saturated with oil in the form of vapour; so that, in point of fact, the workmen, having lost flesh by working at the first process, are restored to health by exchanging to the second, by being exposed to treatment, conjointly, of inhalation of the vapour of palin-oil, and to palm-oil vapour-baths. That the latter is the case, is proved by the fact that the clothing of the workmen at this second process becomes saturated with oil. It is also asserted that pure palm-oil volatilises, and leaves no residue. At any rate, I think the oil vapour baths and inhalations might be worth trying in conjunction with the other received methods of treatment of this most intractable disease.—I am, sir, etc., H. Osborn Bayfield, L.R.C.P.Edin., L.F.P.S.G., etc. 1, Somers Villas, Lavender Hill, S.W.

FLEA-BITES.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent "Tormented" in the JOURNAL of May 13th,
I beg to suggest that he would find great relief from his troubles by the application to the skin of a tincture of the pyrethrum roseum, made with the powder shaken up in eau-de-Cologne; a much more agreeable remedy, I believe, than oil or ointment. Many years since, there was a formula for this tincture given in the JOURNAL, which I found very serviceable to patients going abroad, in preventing the bites of mosquitoes, bugs, or fleas. I presume that "Keating's insecticide powder" (probably the pyrethrum above-mentioned) would be found to answer the purpose well.—Your obedient servant,

F. J. CORBOULD, M.D. Reigate, May 17th.

ERRATUM.—In Mr. Herbert Thompson's Obstetric Memorandum on Post Partum Hæmorrhage (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 13th, page 605), for "extreme pressure", read "external pressure".

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

Mr. Eastes, London; Mr. J. Lattey, London; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. Lee, London; Mr. A. Kempe, Exeter; Mr. E. Wallis, London; Dr. T. Partridge, London; Dr. D. N. Knox, Glasgow; Dr. Gorta, Italy; Dr. Hadley, London; Mr. R. T. Stock, Kingstown; Mr. C. R. Illingworth, Accrington; Dr. H. A. Martin, Boston; Dr. R. Barnes, London; Dr. R. McDonnell, Dublin; Dr. C. Drury, Darlington; The Right Hon. H. Childers, M.P., London; A Member, Sandhurst; Dr. Thin, London; Mr. Henry C. MacBryan, Lichfield; Mr. W. E. Steavenson, London; Messrs. Arnold and Sons, London; Mr. T. M. Kendall, Ryde; Dr. Cullingworth, Manchester; Mr. H. Greig Smith, Clifton; Mr. Thomas H. Dale, Birmingham; Mr. G. R. Gilruth, Edinburgh; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Henry Savage, London; Surgeon-Major Mac-Leod, Calcutta; Dr. Grose, Melksham; Dr. Julian J. Chisholm, Baltimore; Dr. S. Rees Philipps, Exeter; Dr. Galabin, London; Mr. E. Nettleship, London; Mr. Pittard, London; Dr. Woodhouse, Dublin; Mr. Wood, Chelsea; Our Dublin Correspondent; Secretary to the Northern Hospital, Liverpool; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Mr. Rushton Parker, Liverpool; Mr. T. Jenner Verrall, Brighton; Dr. Burney Yeo, London; Dr. C. F. Newcome, Windermere: Mr. G. F. Masterman, Stourport; Mr. James C. Cousins, Southsea; Mr. Richard Burke, Douglas, Cork; Mr. George Meadows, Hastings; Dr. J. Symington, Edinburgh; Dr. Gillespie, St. Thomas's Hospital; Mr. G. F. Chambers, Eastbourne; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Dr. Wallace, Parsonstown; Messrs. Salt and Co., Birmingham; Dr. Kidd, Dublin; Mr. C. N. Spinks, Warrington; M.R.C.S.; Mr. Laffan, Cashel; Mr. John Bellamy, London; Mr. W. J. Read, London; Mr. W. B. Pearsall, Dublin; Mr. Watson Cheyne, London; Servius; Mr. John Woodman, Exeter; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Wallace, Rochdale; Dr. E. Creswell Baber, Brighton; C. R.; Dr. Moriarty, Cork; Mr. G. D. Brown, Ealing; Mr. F. A. Southam, Pendleton, Manchester; Mr. H. C. Burdett, London; Dr. James Ross, Manchester; Dr. Nicholas Grattan, Cork; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Dr. A. Strange, Shrewsbury; Mr. A. H. Chisholme, London; Dr. Tilt, London; Mr. W. D. Graham, Epsom; Mr. James Milward, Cardiff; Mr. W. Benthall, Derby; Mr. T. d'Orville Partridge, Assam; Mr. A. Graham, London; Mr. C. Soloman, Skirlaugh; Dr. Crichton Browne, London; Dr. W. Thornley Stoker, Dublin; Mr. G. Lyttleton, London; Mr. Malcolm Morris, London; David M. Finlay, Cradock, E. Africa; P. J. Parnell, Calcutta; etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Pharmacopæia of the London Hospital. Compiled under the direction of a committee appointed by the London Hospital Medical Council. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1882.

The Tissues and their Structure; a description of the Elementary Tissues of the Human Body. By Alexander S. Kenny, M.R.C.S. E., Senior Demonstrator of Anatomy at King's College. London: David Bogue. 1882.

Paracentesis of the Pericardium; a consideration of the Surgical Treatment of Pericardial Effusions. By John B. Roberts, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia: J. B. Lip-

cardial Effusions. By pincott and Co. 1880.

Mycetoma, or the Fungus Disease of India. By H. Vandyke Carter, M.D.Lond., H.M. Indian Army. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1874.

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