# LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 161, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 161, Strand, W.C., London.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, are requested to communicate beforehand with the Manager, 161A, Strand, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—We shall be much obliged to Medical Officers of

Health if they will, on forwarding their Annual and other Reports, favour us with Duplicate Copies.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered, are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

#### A MEDICAL HERO.

A MEDICAL HERO.

TWENTY-SIX Subscriptions were acknowledged in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 29th, 1881, to the memorial brass to be placed in the church of St. Bartholomew-the-Less, to Surgeon Landon, Army Medical Department. The following subscriptions have been received since; H. B. Boulter, Esq., Richmond; F. B. Brodribb, Esq., Colne; S. S. Burn, M.B., Richmond; F. W. Evans, M.D., Cardiff; V. D. Harris, M.D., London; W. L. Heath, Esq., London; G. R. Howat, Esq., London; Captain Lovegrove, Blackheath; S. Lovegrove, Esq., Blackheath; J. F. C. Macready, Esq., London; G. S. A. Ranking, M.B., India; T. B. Scott, Esq., Bournemouth; W. H. P. Sheehy, Esq., London; J. Shuter, M.B., London; F. W. Strugnell, Esq., London; A. Venn, M.D., London; each ros. 6d. T. G. Alderton, Esq., Hammersmith, ros.; H. J. Ilott, M.D., Bromley; W. Outhwaite, Esq., London; W. A. Syker, Esq.; each 5s. Subscriptions are received by the honorary secretary, Mr. W. E. Steavenson, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

QUERY (Midhurst).—The publication by a medical man of his name and address as a "card" among advertisements in public papers, is certainly not likely to uphold the dignity of the profession; and we regret to see the advertisement to which our attention has been called, and hope it will be discontinued.

MR. STEPHENS (Jedburgh) has ridden a "Salvo" for three years, and would dispose of his horse at once but for the fact that some of the roads near Jedburgh are so rough, that it is impossible to get over them with the Salvo or any other machine. He can go on any road with pleasure, except where rough stones are lying loose. The country is very hilly. From his experience, he would advise any medical man to get a Salvo. In many places, all the work of a large practice can be done by it without horse and groom, and all attendant troubles; and, even if one horse must be kept, the Salvo saves a second, and is very handy for night-work, and an agreeable change.

#### TYPHOID BACTERIA IN ALBUMINOUS URINE.

SIR,—Can you inform me how to proceed in order to detect the above? 1. Will such minute particles admit of collection from the lower stratum of a sometime stagnant urine, like ordinary urinary deposits; or how else are they to be got at and transferred to the microscope? 2. What power may be expected to show them? and, lastly, How may they be known, if seen?

Your leading article on this subject in the JOURNAL of the 4th of last March leads me to make this inquiry, as I have now under treatment a typhoid fever patient whose urine is albuminous.—Yours truly,

\* \* \* A small portion of the urine ought to be dried on over-releases as soon as

\*\*\* 1. As small portion of the urine ought to be dried on cover-glasses as soon as it has been passed. The glass is then stained with methylen blue or methyl violet (see article on Recent Researches on Bacteria). 2. One-twelfth oil or water immersion will show the bacteria well, if a good condenser be employed. 3. They appear as short thick rods, stained blue.

#### THE COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE.

SIR,—A few weeks ago, I ventured to point out to the members of the above that they must labour to procure an alteration in the existing law as to post mortem examinations, or be satisfied to fail utterly to utilise the magnificent provincial resources now running to utter waste. Even the limited power which union hospital physicians have of procuring post mortem examinations by the consent of the relatives, has in some quarters had doubts cast on its existence, since my threatened dismissal years ago. The Medical Commissioner ought to have transferred to him the power now possessed by lay union officials.—I am, etc.,

T. LAFFAN.

S. Y. can apply for himself the principles which we have already laid down on the subject. It appears to us, supposing all the circumstances to be correctly stated, that there is no reason why a fair charge should not be made.

#### VESICO-VAGINAL FISTULA.

Sir,—I beg to ask you what statistics, if any, exist, which contraindicate connection during the existence of the above affection? Are there any cases to prove (1) that parturition is attended with any increased risk? (2) that impregnation does really occur at all? I am disposed to think the latter improbable.—I am, etc.,

A PHYSICIAN.

Consultants and Free.

Sir,—I shall feel greatly obliged if you will kindly inform me if it is the practice of "consulting" physicians to charge medical men a fee of two guineas for every visit, when the medical man attends at the physician's own house? Apologising for troubling you, and thanking you in anticipation, I am, sir, yours truly, 4, Vernon Terrace, New Southgate, N., May 27th, 1882. W. J. READ.

\*.\* As stated, the question almost is one which answers itself, since the opposite practice is universal. On the question of the modifications by circumstances of this general rule, we may refer our correspondent to a recent letter in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL on the circumstances which may justify a medical man in receiving a fee from a professional brother.

#### LUMBAR PAIN OF DOUBTFUL ORIGIN.

SIR,—I have a patient, a gardener, aged about 45, who has suffered for some years at different times from a violent pain in the lumbar region. This pain, which agrees in all its symptoms with lumbago, when it is bad, totally prevents him from doing any work. His urine has been examined by myself and other practitioners, and found free from albumen. Liniments, plasters, etc., have been tried externally, and many remedies given internally, without any benefit. I would feel much obliged if some of your readers could suggest some remedy that might do good, as the man appears to be worse every time he has a fresh attack.—Yours faithfully. fully.

A TRIPLE BIRTH. A TRILE BIRTH.

SIR,—On Friday night last, I attended Eliza Watkinson, the wife of an agricultural labourer, resident in this parish. She was safely delivered of three children, two girls and a boy, all living; and, at the date on which I write, apparently likely to do well. The points of interest are, that the presentation in each case was cranial, that each child had a separate placenta, and that, after the birth of the first child and the expulsion of the placenta, the head of the second presented; and, on rupturing the membranes, a pain immediately followed, which was sufficient for the completion of labour in that case. The same process was repeated with the third.

The infants are small, but healthy, and already growing rapidly; and the mother has, up to the present, made uninterrupted progress towards recovery. Thinking that such a comparatively rare occurrence is worthy of a passing notice in your influential Journal, I have ventured to trouble you with this letter, and beg to remain, sir, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR W. ALDRICH, L.R.C.P.Ed., etc.

Mildenhall, Suffolk, June 1st, 1882.

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

Dr. Murphy, Sunderland; Dr. Thin, London; Mr. D. H. Cullimore, London; Dr. E. T. Thompson, Coventry; Messrs. Dorn and Co., Hamburgh; Mr. A. L. Duncan, Oldham; Mr. Donald A. Fraser, Burnham; Dr. Althaus, London; Mr. J. Whitehouse, Sunderland; Dr. Joseph Coats, Glasgow; Mr. Thomas Boyle, New Quay; Miss S. M. Bartlett, Brixham; Mr. Frank Stephens, London: Mr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Messrs. G. Street and Co., London; Mr. W. Seltan Eccles, Upper Norwood; Dr. MacCombie, London; Dr. Stevenson, London; Mr. Joseph Drew, Beckenham; Workhouse Officer; Mr. C. H. Wise, London; Mr. R. W. Greenish, Vienna; An Unqualified Assistant; Mr. F. Wallace, London'; Dr. Creswell Rich, Liverpool; Mr. R. B. Sellers, Rochdale; Dr. Vere Webb, Coleshill; Mr. R. Benthall, Derby; Mr. Watson Cheyne, London; Mr. H. R. Swanzy, Dublin; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. F. D. Grayson, Ragleigh; Mr. A. D. Macdonald, Liverpool; Mr. D. McNeill, Kirkwall; Dr. Gairdner, Glasgow; Dr. Farquharson, London; Dr. T. Churton, Leeds; Mr. H. A. Reeves, London; Dr. L. W. Marshall, Nottingham; Mr. E. Adams, Ramsgate; Mr. W. W. Reeves, London; Mr. T. Spencer Wells, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. Albert Croly, Rathfarnham; Mr. Charles Holmes, London; Dr. Strange, Worcester; Dr. T. J. Barnardo, London; Dr. Comyns Leach, Sturminster Newton; Dr. James Hudson, Nelson, New Zealand; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Mr. R. Davy, London; Dr. H. L. Donovan, Malta; Mr. Thomas B. Fitch, Market Bosworth; Dr. Orlebar, London; Dr. J. Ward Cousins, Southsea; The Registrar of the General Medical Council; Mr. H. C. Stewart, London; Mr. A W. Aldrich, Mildenhall; Mr. C. Stephens, Jedburgh; Dr. C. E. Glascott, Manchester, Mr. P. Swain, Plymouth; Mr. M. D. Makuna, London; Dr. Gillespie, London; etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Foods: their Composition and Analysis. By Alexander Wynter Blyth, M.R.C.S. London: Charles Griffin and Co. 1882. Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London. London: Longmans, Green,

Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1882.

The Human Brain; Histological and Coarse Methods of Research. A Manual for Students and Asylum Medical Officers. By W. Bevan Lewis, L.R.C.P. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1882.

Clinical Lectures on Diseases of the Urinary Organs, delivered at University College Hospital. By Sir Henry Thompson. Sixth Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1882.

Hospitals: their History, Construction, and Hygiene. By J. F. Sutherland, M.D. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone.

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