

A QUESTION OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

SIR.—I should be greatly obliged if some of your numerous readers would inform me if they have ever had a similar case to the following; and, if so, what was the line of treatment adopted, and what was the result.

A lady, aged 35, weighing about 7½ st., indifferently nourished, has a nearly complete loss of motive power in the lower extremities, partial loss of motion in the arms, particularly the right. There is no loss of sensation, no pain anywhere, no tenderness along the spine; the appetite is very poor, with a tendency to take stimulants in lieu of food. The mental powers, as noticed in house-management, memory, and sharpness or quickness, are unimpaired; but the articulation is slightly slow and wanting in strength. The father and mother both died of apoplexy, aged respectively 70 and 64; one sister died at 33 years of age, having had six children rather rapidly, and having been paralysed in the lower limbs for six years; the last child being born three years previously to her death; one brother died at 33 years of age, from pneumonia and general dissipation.

My patient married in April 1874. She had previously a slight dimness in the left eye; the medical attendant said it was want of tone. In May 1874, she first noticed a loss of power in the right leg, which passed away in two days. In January 1876, she was confined of a female child. In June 1876, she had a miscarriage. In January 1878, she was confined of a male child. In April 1878, she went on a tour in Ireland, seemed weak, and gave evidence of loss of power on the right side. In May 1878, she consulted a London physician, and stayed in London six weeks. A building-up treatment was prescribed, with bromide of potassium, tonics, and vin de Boudoux. The loss of power gradually increased. In October 1879, she was confined of a male child. In March 1881, she stayed at the Matlock Baths for three months, undergoing electricity, and dieting with an absence of alcohol. In July 1881, she consulted another London physician, and was recommended the continuance of the hypophosphites. He suggested that the disease was a functional one, which it has proved not to be. In September 1881, she was confined of a female child. The eldest child died of pneumonia, aged 13 months. All the confinements have been easy and straightforward, particularly the last; all the children are healthy, the last being a very strong and healthy girl, now aged 15 months. Three years ago, she displayed great nervousness about her state of health, but this has entirely passed away. She takes exercise in an open carriage whenever the weather is fine.

She has at different times taken Easton's Syrup, Fellowes's Syrup of the Hypophosphites, Parrish's Syrup of the Phosphate of Iron and Quinine. One of the London medical men suggested that there might be a deterioration of a portion of the spinal cord.

In conclusion, I may say that my patient would be only too glad to know from any medical man, that he has so treated such a case as I have described, as to justify her in seeking further advice.—I am, etc., A PHYSICIAN.

DAVOS PLATZ.

SIR.—Allow me space for a few words *à propos* of the favourable notice of Mr. Maddock's "Davos Platz," that appeared in your issue of December 2nd. It is clear to me, on reading the notice, that your reviewer, quoting Mr. Maddock's remarks on the inefficient state of the drainage of Davos, has given his attention to the first edition of the book, now twelve months old, instead of to the last.

In the "J. E. M." guide to Davos Platz., 1882, on pages 10 and 11, the editor, speaking of the drainage and water-supply, now says: "We are glad to be able to state that, by next year, there will no longer be any cause for complaint, as, during the present year, some definite steps have been taken to establish an efficient state of drainage. We have been favoured with a plan of the scheme.....There will be a main sewer commencing at the Hotel d'Angleterre, and from this sewer various branch-pipes will run, having a common outlet in the river far below Davos. The plan also comprises an elaborate arrangement of traps to prevent the escape of sewer-gas.....In addition to the drainage improvements, the slaughter of cattle in scattered slaughter-houses is to be prohibited, and a general *abattoir* erected outside the village, at an estimated cost of 35,000 francs; and, in order to keep the air of the village free from smoke, the bakers are to be encouraged to carry on their work during the night-time only. No refuse of any description will be allowed to be placed near the village, and on this point the utmost vigilance will be exercised." The water-supply, copious as it is, will shortly be further supplemented from a source in the Flüela Valley, whence the water will be brought to Davos by a conduit."

I may remark that the authorities have been stimulated to this energetic action, in some measure, by the severe strictures Mr. Maddock passed when writing on the sanitary state of the valley twelve months ago; and, in justice to the Davosians, as well as for the information of intending visitors, it is desirable that these facts should be known.—I am, yours faithfully,

PHILIP HOLLAND.

Analytical Laboratory, 18, Exchange Street, Manchester.

R. A. O. CALLAGHAN will find full information on the subject in Mr. H. O. Burdett's book on Cottage Hospitals, published by Churchill.

MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.

SIR.—I would suggest that clauses should be inserted in the proposed new Medical Act, to the following effect:

1. That no registered medical practitioner residing within, say, half a mile or a mile of a pharmaceutical chemist, should, between 8 A.M. and 9 P.M., except in a case of emergency, supply or dispense medicines.
2. That a prescription, unless ordered to the contrary, should not be dispensed by a chemist on more than one occasion, unless redated and signed by a registered medical practitioner, with full name and address.
3. That stringent regulations should be inserted to prevent counter-prescribing by chemists; that they should not be allowed to recommend any medical preparation of their own, or patent medicines of any kind; and that all patent medicines should merely state on their wrappers and labels the ingredients and quantities of which they are composed, without any reference to their medical uses or effects.

Unless non-dispensing by medical men be made, as on the continent, contrary to law, it will be difficult to abolish it. Many patients, when a prescription is proposed, decline, probably to save the druggist's account, but say they have no faith in medicines supplied by the druggist, and wish to have it from the surgery of the medical attendant; while those medical men who perpetuate the public opinion of the trading association of the profession by charging for their medicines, will object to the non-supplying of medicines as a reduction to their profits.

In consideration of the increased business which non-dispensing by medical men would give to the druggists, they would probably be induced to charge less for dispensing prescriptions, and be satisfied with 25 to 50 per cent. profit on the retail price of the drugs used.—Yours faithfully, A NON-TRADER.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Harness as it has been, as it is, and as it should be. By John Phillips. With Remarks on Traction and the Use of the Cape Cart, by Nimshovich; also Appendix by the same Author, containing some very important directions to grooms and coachmen respecting their duties, their dress, hints on driving, etc. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Andrew Reid, 32, Collingwood Street; Mawson, Swan, and Morgan, Grey Street. London: Edward Stanford, 55, Charing Cross, S.W. 1882.

Clinical Lectures on Diseases peculiar to Women. By Lombe Atthill, M.D. Seventh Edition, revised and enlarged. Dublin: Fannin and Co. 1883.

Year-Book of Pharmacy; comprising Abstracts of Papers relating to Pharmacy, Materia Medica, and Chemistry, contributed to British and Foreign Journals from July 1st, 1881, to June 30th, 1882; with the Transactions of the British Pharmaceutical Conference at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting, held at Southampton, August 1882. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1882.

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