

## DEATHS FROM CHLOROFORM.

SIR,—I have delayed replying to the letter of Dr. Whelan (*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, December 23rd), in order to see whether anyone else would save me the trouble; but, as no communication has since appeared upon the subject, I should like to say that, although I have never given atropia by subcutaneous injection for the purpose of preventing death from chloroform, I have, on two occasions (the first time in 1881), administered a dose of belladonna about half an hour before beginning to give the chloroform. Both patients were well advanced in years, one about seventy, and the other about eighty, and in both cases the operation was the same—excision of epithelioma of the lip. In both cases, too, the position adopted for convenience in such an operation increased the risk—the patients were seated in a high-backed easy chair. Anaesthesia was complete in both cases, and the administration of the chloroform was not attended by any unusual phenomena. Both patients passed through the ordeal in safety. Whether I am indebted to Mr. Schäfer for the idea of using belladonna for this purpose, I am now unable to say. I have no objection to give him the benefit of the doubt.

As regards the theory, I do not think it likely that the "intellectual centres have much to do with the fatal issue in chloroform administration. Be that as it may, however, the good effects of belladonna in poisoning by chloroform are most likely due, not only to a farinoid action on the cardio-inhibitory fibres, but also, as Dr. Harley has pointed out, to a stimulant action on the sympathetic. On this latter hypothesis, I have frequently employed the drug in a variety of cases, and it has generally answered my expectations. As it has thus been found useful in stimulating to contraction dilated arteries and arterioles, it is only natural to expect that it will stimulate the heart when such stimulation is required. This, I think, may suffice for theory till we know more of the intra-cardiac ganglia, and the ways in which they influence the action of the heart. For practical purposes, however, it will be enough for most practitioners to know that, while chloroform weakens the action of the heart, atropia undoubtedly strengthens it; and its use is, therefore, rationally indicated as a means of fortifying that organ against the evil effects of chloroform.

The dose is obviously a matter of some importance. I believe that an ordinary or a full medicinal use will be found sufficient. In one case, I gave twelve minims of the tincture, and in the other, five minims of the succus. Single doses of these quantities are quite sufficient to produce in most people the slighter physiological effects of the drug, and in some, very marked effects indeed. By giving too large a dose, there may be a risk of producing reaction, and so defeating our object. This is a point, however, which only accumulated experience can decide. I trust that that experience will soon be acquired, and published in the pages of the *JOURNAL*.—I am, etc.,

St. Mary Bourne, Andover, January 22nd, 1883.

W. F. PHILLIPS.

C. C. B.—The address of the National Health Society is 41, Berners Street, W.

## MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS AND UNQUALIFIED PRACTICE.

SIR,—It is extraordinary how the poor and industrial classes of the people at the East End of London are led by advertisements by druggists and chemists who carry on the trade of unqualified medical practice; the consequences of such an imposition must seriously tell on the health and mortality of the population. Nor is it unusual to find some medical men to lend their names to get unqualified practitioners out of legal difficulties. I inclose two specimens of advertisements with which one is inundated at the East End of London: one from a Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and M.R.C.S.

"Pamphlet Gratis and Post Free. Antiseptic Treatment; its great efficacy in All Diseases of Women, without interference, cutting, or caustics. Consultations daily, or by letter, by Dr. Washington Evans, 41, Cambridge Street, Hyde Park Square, London. Just published, post free and gratis of author."

"Debilities and Derangements of the Generative and Nervous System: their Nature and Cure by the Antiseptic Treatment. By Dr. Washington Evans, 41, Cambridge Street, Hyde Park Square, London. Consultations daily, eleven till seven, or by letter."

"To Seamen and others. W. H. Howlett, 44, High Street, Shadwell, opposite King David Lane, continues to supply the best medicines at his usual reasonable prices. The seafaring population may place full confidence in his knowledge of their requirements, as he has had nearly forty years' experience among sailors of all nations, both at home and abroad. Where necessary, W. H. H. has the assistance of an experienced physician. No charge for advice. N.B.—Strictly moderate charges for all medicines."—I remain, yours obediently, A MEMBER B. M. ASSOC.

London, E., January 1st, 1883.

L.R.C.P. LOND.—Dr. F. E. Pocock, 20, Goulbourne Road, Upper Westbourne Park, is willing to give information respecting the Brussels degree.

## "THE FACTORY ACTS."

"To the Editor of the *Printer's Register*."

"SIR,—In a paragraph in the *Printer's Register* for November, it is stated that boys under sixteen years of age are not allowed to work in factories after 8 P.M. if they start at 8 A.M., and that they must have at least eight holidays in the year. Now if this is necessary for the welfare of boys under sixteen, I would like the factory inspector to explain how it is that a factory surgeon, receiving fees under the Factory Act, can keep message-boys at work from twelve to fourteen hours a day for seven days a week, and without a single holiday the whole year through. This I know to be done in London, and with boys under fourteen years of age.—Your obedient servant, DISPENSER."

"[There is an anomaly certainly, and many a poor little doctor's boy would be thankful if the Act applied to him as well as to his brethren in printing offices. It does not, however.—ED. P. R.]—From *Printer's Register* of December 6th.

## THE NUTRIENT TREATMENT OF INSANITY.

"THE greater my experience becomes," writes Dr. Clouston in the *Practitioner*, "the more I tend to substitute milk for stimulants. I do not undervalue the latter in suitable cases; but in the very acute cases, both of depression and maniacal exaltation, where the disordered working of the brain tends rapidly to exhaust the strength, I rely more and more on milk and eggs made into liquid custards. One such case this year got eight pints of milk and sixteen eggs every day for three months, and under this treatment recovered. I question whether he would have done so under any other. He was almost dead on admission, acutely delirious, absolutely sleepless, and very nearly pulseless. It was a hand-to-hand fight between the acute disease in his brain and his

general vitality. If his stomach could not have digested and his body assimilated enough suitable nourishment, or if he could not have been taken out freely into the open air, he must have died. But to-day he is fulfilling the duties of his position as well as he ever did in his life. All acute mental diseases, like most nervous diseases, tend to thinness of body, and therefore all foods, and all medicines, and all treatments that fatten, are good. To my assistants, and nurses, and patients, I preach the gospel of fatness as the great antidote to the exhausting tendencies of the disease we have to treat, and it would be well if all people of nervous constitution would obey this gospel."

## DR. NEALE'S CHEMICAL LUNG.

SIR,—Permit me to correct an error in Dr. Neale's description of his chemical lung, published in the *JOURNAL* for December 9th, 1882. A "chemical lung" was sent to the Civil Hospital for experiment. The ulcer ward is a large and thoroughly well ventilated room, in which the foulest ulcers are scarcely perceptible. As it was useless to try any experiments there, a patient suffering from a gangrenous ulcer was removed to a private room, and the punkah was put up there. It worked very satisfactorily as far as keeping the room sweet, but broke down after a few days, owing to the stitches connecting it with the framework giving way.—I am, your obedient servant,

E. COLSON, Surgeon-Major, Civil Surgeon, Aden.

Aden, December 31st, 1882.

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

Dr. Sutherland, London; Dr. Sinclair Coghill, Ventnor; Dr. C. Grabham, Pontefract; Dr. Rees Phillips, Exeter; Dr. Robert Lee, London; Dr. Rabagliati, Bradford; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. Collie, London; Mr. Manby, East Rudham; Mr. Anderson, Cramlington; Dr. A. R. Barnes, Hastings; Mr. H. Sutcliffe, West Bromwich; Mr. Crookshank, Bridport; Mr. Denison, London; Dr. Semmola, Naples; Dr. Holland, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. Nelson Hardy, London; Mr. G. W. Wiquier, London; Dr. Althaus, London; Mr. R. B. Sellers, Rochdale; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. J. Vesey Fitzgerald, London; Dr. Murrell, London; Mr. George Collins, Moreton Hampstead; Dr. E. F. Scougal, New Mill, near Huddersfield; Dr. Duffey, Dublin; Mr. Berridge, Redhill; Mr. Jackson, Birmingham; Dr. Strange, Worcester; Mr. A. C. Bridges, Birmingham; Dr. Bonchard, Algiers; Mr. J. J. Byrne, Preston; Mr. C. C. Burman, Belford; Dr. Herbert Collier, Gorleston; Mr. J. Whitehouse, Sunderland; Dr. J. D. Macdonald, Haputolls, Colombo; Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz, Paris; Mr. P. H. Mules, Manchester; Dr. Baccelli, Rome; Mr. Edward Stephens, Ilminster; Mr. W. Roger Williams, London; Mr. R. H. Fox, London; Mr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. E. M. Grace, Thornbury; Dr. J. Crichton Browne, London; Dr. C. S. W. Cobbold, Earlswood; Dr. Thorne Thorne, London; Esperanza; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Sir William Mac Cormac, London; T. F. H. S.; Mr. F. Treves, London; H. M. M.; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Dr. Goyder, Bradford; Mr. C. P. Hooker, Coltishall; Mr. W. Grove, Richmond; Dr. A. Paterson, Bridge-of-Allan; Dr. Adams, London; J. D. P.; Dr. Eustace Firth, Norwich; Dr. T. W. Ilme, Sheffield; Dr. Willoughby, London; Mr. Timothy Holmes, London; Dr. Brailey, London; Mr. Joseph Stephens, Brighton; Mr. William Young, London; Mr. Shirley F. Murphy, London; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. Shettle, Reading; Dr. Pantalcond, Rome; Dr. C. B. Williams, Ashby-de-la-Zouch; Mr. Alfred P. Watkins, Worcester; Mr. J. A. Byerley, Portsea; Dr. Gairdner, Glasgow; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Sir Henry Thompson, London; Dr. Huggard, London; Mr. George H. Smith, Southsea; Mr. H. W. Gosse, Mid-somer Norton; Dr. Kraus, Vienna; Dr. Tom Robinson, London; Dr. Herman, London; Mr. O. Lowry, Reading; Dr. T. T. Bos, Amsterdam; Mr. Thomas Jones, Manchester; Vates A.M.D.; Dr. Barnardo, London; Verbum Sap.; Mr. W. F. Phillips, Andover; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Dr. Mahomed, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. W. H. Wilding, Church Street; Dr. C. Binz, Bonn; E. H. M.; M. N. Gille, Brussels; Dr. Fernie, Barnstaple; Mr. Edward Matthew, Redditch; Dr. Allen Charles, Cookstown; Dr. Neale, London; J. M.; Mr. R. Sherlock, London; Dr. James Donnet, Dover; Dr. Hebra, Vienna; Mr. A. Bernard, Liverpool; Dr. J. Wilkie Burman, Ramsbury, Hungerford; Dr. Biddle, Kingston; Mr. Charles Steele, Bristol; M.R.C.S.; Dr. John R. Muir, Selkirk; Dr. J. Ashburton Thompson, London; Mr. Frederic Rene, Manchester; Mr. B. J. Newmarch, Clermont, near Lockhampton, Queensland; Dr. Dieulafoy, Paris; The Secretary of the Cambridge Medical Society; Mr. Brindley James, London; Mr. Dr. Smythe, co. Down; Earl of Bandon; etc.

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