

STEAM DRAFT KETTLE.

SIR.—I am sorry that Dr. R. J. Lee feels himself aggrieved by Allen's advertisement of a "steam draft kettle." I have written to request him not to use this term, and not again to mention my name in connection with it. As Dr. Lee rightly says, I was formerly house-surgeon at Great Ormond Street, and was therefore acquainted with the details of his invention. This acquaintance with details enables me to say authoritatively that the croup kettle, as made by Allen, was not an imitation of any machine then in use at Great Ormond Street.

In my little work on Tracheotomy (published in 1880), when advocating the value of steam, it is stated (page 41) "for this purpose, the ventilating croup-kettle is the most useful. It was made at my suggestion, on the principle of the ingenious 'steam draft inhaler' invented by Dr. Lee; differing from it chiefly in size and in one or two minor points, which, while they render it more convenient as a 'croup kettle', they lessen its value as an inhaler."

In suggesting to Messrs. Allen the kettle as at present made by them, my object was to utilise that which is obviously good in Dr. Lee's inhaler, and to modify, in practical detail, those points which rendered the employment of the inhaler impossible for the croup-bed. Further, I took the earliest opportunity, in my book and elsewhere, of acknowledging the share which belonged to Dr. Lee in the "invention", such as it is. For myself, I have no ambition to become known as an inventor of kettles; neither do I aspire to be considered "either original or ingenious" in this department of work.

During my residence in Great Ormond Street, Dr. Lee's inhaler was frequently used; we did not, however, and could not, use it for the croup-bed. The reason will be apparent to anyone who cares to examine for himself Dr. Lee's instruments as made at the period to which I refer.—Yours faithfully,

ROBERT WM. PARKER.

London, January 29th, 1883.

SIR.—We notice a letter in reference to the above in last week's issue of the JOURNAL. In justice to Mr. Parker, we desire to say that we alone are responsible for the advertisement, and for the use of the term "steam draft kettle"; and we would also say Mr. Parker has no personal interest of any sort whatever in our croup kettle. We are aware that the late Mr. Napier stated that our kettle was an imitation of one in use at the Children's Hospital in Great Ormond Street; this statement, however, is quite inaccurate, as anyone who examines the two articles will at once see.

Though not able to give the date when first introduced, because of the death of the medical man and the break-up of the firm who used to supply them, we should say it is over twenty years since a steam draft inhaler was first introduced, not under that name, but under the simple name of "inhaler"; so the principle of the steam draught has nothing novel about it, even in application in this sense.

In conclusion, we assert that when our first kettle was made, it met a want, and that there was nothing in use at all like it, either at Great Ormond Street or elsewhere. To convince yourself of this, you have only to compare the two instruments together. We further assert that the article now being sold as "Dr. Lee's Steam Draft Kettle" was not made or introduced until after ours, which Dr. Lee carefully inspected on our premises. We have now advertised this article for four years in all the medical papers, so must leave your readers to decide for themselves as to which has the priority.—We remain, your obedient servants,

JAMES ALLEN AND SON.

21 and 23, Marylebone Lane, W., January 30th, 1883.

DR. N. GRATTAN (Oork) wishes it to be stated that the letter concerning the treatment of Gambetta last week referred to in the JOURNAL was not written by him.

A. R.—No legal right whatever.

PRURITUS AFTER HERPES ZOSTER.

SIR.—As I have seen no reply to the question asked on this subject, and as I have been the subject of this itching on more than one occasion, I think perhaps the treatment I adopted successfully to myself may be of use to "Inquirers". The cause of the itching, I believe, is capillary stagnation, and consequent irritation to the peripheral nerves. I therefore bathe the part thoroughly for a quarter of an hour, with water as hot as can be borne, and then rub with a rough towel sharply for about five minutes. This should be done three times a day, or oftener, and I find great benefit result therefrom; in three or four days it is well. Of course the habitual constipation must be attended to. There is always a certain amount of itching after the separation of a scab, due, I think, to the cause already mentioned; if it is not due to this, I do not see how the friction treatment would allay or cure it.—I am, faithfully yours,

Fill, Bristol.

A. H. BOYS, L.R.C.P. Ed., etc.

A MEMBER (Manchester).—No double qualification is necessary for your purpose.

SURPRISED.—The plagiarism is well known, we find, to the author, but he does not desire it to be noticed.

PREVENTION OF SMOKE.

SIR.—I would supplement your letter on the prevention of smoke by the following bits of information gleaned during a year's residence in Canada.

1. The hard coal is broken by machinery, and screened to sizes from a large potato to a bean, to suit the different kinds of furnaces and stoves in which it is to be burned. The same practice should be followed here by the coal-merchants.

2. The bottoms of the grates can be shaken, so that the ashes fall out without the use of the poker.

3. The American self-leader stands about five feet high, and has a reservoir of coal which keeps it going for twelve hours. There is a round grate in the centre full of glowing coals, and you have a full view of it through mica windows. It is simply perfection in a hall, and warms the whole house. Why does not some manufacturer get it over, and make one on the same pattern, instead of supplying the wretched black affairs which are sold at present?

4. The same remark applies to the cooking-stove. I have had experience of Smith and Wellwood's, and have one of Constantine's, but none of them come up to the best American. But I suppose it is the old story. The American seems to be a "Hok creation", but takes all he can find best from everyone else. The Englishman says nothing, but sticks doggedly to his own plan, and will learn from nobody.—Yours, etc.,

Eastonstown, January 27th, 1883.

A. W. WALLACE, M.D.

A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.—There is no legal enactment to prevent anyone from applying a dressing to a wound.

LINED MEAL (FREED FROM OIL) AS A MATERIAL FOR POULTICES.

M. LAILLER (*Répertoire de Pharmacie*) recommends lined meal which has been deprived of its oil as far superior to that which is freshly ground and used in its natural state; his own experience is added to the authority of Deschamps in support of this statement. The latter says: "The oil of the grain is so imprisoned by mucilaginous matter when warm water is added to the lined meal, that no one has ever observed any trace of the oil; neither the linen nor the part poulticed is ever greased." When the oil is present, it quickly becomes rancid, and seriously affects the skin. M. Lailier states that the meal deprived of its oil makes a lighter poultice, retains its heat longer, and is less liable to give out unpleasant odours and cause unpleasant results than one made of oily meal.

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

Mr. W. Johnstone, Smethwick; Mr. T. G. Vawdrey, Handsworth; Mr. Thomas P. Smith, Reigate; Mr. Walter Johnson, Norwich; Dr. Jacobs, Dublin; Dr. Murrell, London; Mr. F. Dowell Grayson, Rayleigh; Mr. Alfred H. Young, Manchester; Dr. R. C. Shettie, Reading; Dr. William Walter, Manchester; Messrs. William Galschio and Co., Paris; Mr. E. Burn Callander, London; Dr. Paul Boerner, Berlin; Messrs. C. Griffin and Co., London; Dr. William Legge, Derby; Dr. R. S. Archer, Liverpool; Mr. E. Mason Scott, Kingstown; Dr. H. C. Martin, London; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Mr. N. A. Humphreys, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. Theodore Garrett, London; Dr. Crichton Browne, London; Dr. Duffield, London; Mr. Dentelmain, Weybridge; Spongy Iron Domestic Filter Company; Mr. F. E. Stanlan, Malta; Dr. Ball, Paris; Mr. Thos. H. S. Pullin, Sidmouth; Dr. Manson Fraser, London; Prof. Vulpian, Paris; N.; Mr. E. Vickers Whitby, Birmingham; Mr. James Ferguson, Perth; Dr. D. Allan, London; Mr. N. H. A. Jacobson, London; Dr. John Gill, Stratford-on-Avon; Mr. W. Cox, Cheltenham; Mr. Frank Slater, Nottingham; Dr. Thin, London; Mr. N. Grattan, Cork; Dr. J. K. Spender, Bath; Mr. J. Beatty, Stockton-on-Tees; Mr. C. F. Tombs, London; Mr. R. Clement Lucas, London; Mr. H. De Styrap, Middlesbrough; Mr. C. F. Webb, Basingstoke; Mr. W. Young, London; Dr. Borchardt, Manchester; Dr. Warren, Boston; Mr. J. J. Knight, Carlton; Mr. E. East, London; Mr. M. F. Bush, Bristol; Mr. F. Swinson, Birmingham; Dr. Steele, London; Mrs. Mary Vardell, London; Mr. K. B. Allen, Tipton; Mr. C. Smith, Christiania; Mr. J. Ernest Lane, London; A Medical Practitioner; Dr. H. Gervis, London; Dr. G. Wilson, Leamington; Mr. W. J. Le Grand, Dublin; Dr. F. Robinson, Eastbourne; Mr. James E. Adams, London; Mr. James Shuter, London; Dr. G. E. Shuttlesworth, Lancaster; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. F. W. Barry, London; Dr. D. Adams, London; Dr. Brailley, London; Mr. W. E. L. Batty, Birkenhead; Mr. W. Thornton Parker, Texas; Mr. E. Clarke, London; Mr. E. F. Scogal, Huddersfield; Dr. John S. Main, Withington; Dr. J. H. Stowers, London; A Member; Mr. O. J. Evans, Northampton; Mr. G. F. Henry, Bury St. Edmund's; Mr. David Collingwood, London; Mr. G. H. Hart, Birmingham; Dr. Littlejohn, Edinburgh; Messrs. Krohne and Sescmann, London; Mr. A. H. Boyes, Pill; Dr. Bradley, Jarrow; Dr. H. Tomkins, Manchester; Mr. F. Cooper, Ross; Mr. Thomas Richards, Birmingham; Mr. Roger William, London; Mr. T. B. Carlyon, Buenos Ayres; Mr. Charles McCaskie, Huddersfield; Dr. A. Reid, London; Dr. Hermann Weber, London; Messrs. Castell Brothers, London; Mr. A. Riffer, London; Mr. W. H. Lamb, London; Dr. A. Hirst, Frestwich; Mr. John McDonald, Bushey; Dr. Huggard, London; Dr. W. Newman, Stamford; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. C. H. Wise, London; Dr. A. Drummond Macdonald, Liverpool; Mr. James Davison, Ballinakill, Queen's County; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Mr. George Eastes, London; Mr. John Martin, Cork; Dr. Garsion, London; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Principal Southern and Swiss Health-Resorts; their Climate and Medical Aspect. By William Maroet, M.D., F.R.S. London: J. and A. Churchill 1883.

Knight's Annotated Model By-laws of the Local Government Board relating to (1) Cleansing of Privies, etc., (2) Nuisances, (3) New Streets and Buildings. London: Knight and Co., Local Government Board Publishers. 1883.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL".

Seven lines and under	...	...	...	...	£0 3 6
Each additional line	...	...	...	...	0 0 4
A whole column	...	...	...	...	1 15 0
A page	...	...	...	...	5 0 0

An average line contains eight words.

When a series of insertions of the same advertisement is ordered, a discount is made on the above scale in the following proportions, beyond which no reduction can be allowed.

For 6 insertions, a deduction of	...	...	10 per cent.
" 12 or 13 "	...	...	20 "
" 26 "	...	...	25 "
" 52 "	...	...	30 "

For these terms, the series must, in each case, be completed within twelve months from date of first insertion.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, at the Office, not later than Twelve o'clock on the Wednesday preceding publication; and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association, at the West Central Post-Office, High Holborn. Small amounts may be sent in postage stamps.