

DIPLOMAS AND FEES.

SIR,—I see continually in your JOURNAL cases of medical men complaining of the way our services are being ignored by the general public, and the great tendency to lower our position as medical men and gentlemen; but my firm belief is that we, as a body, especially the juniors, have very much to thank ourselves for such treatment, when each one tries his best to underbid the other; for one man will attend to a case for 20s., another will do the same for 10s., or even nothing, and this the public know full well, and snub us in consequence. We do not hear of this kind of abuse in the law, where stated charges are the custom; and if you were to try any number of respectable lawyers, their charges will be nearly alike; they do not attempt to work under value.

Here is a case in point. There is a young medical man who has lately commenced practice some miles from this town, who prides himself upon his superior qualification of L.R.C.P. London, and tries to make people believe that he possesses the highest qualification in our country, and that we poor L.S.A. London, are nobodies; but, in my humble opinion, the L.R.C.P. is merely a licence to practise medicine, the same as the L.S.A., and, after all, merely comes under the heading of General Medical Practitioner. This young man attends midwifery at charges which every right-minded practitioner must call absurd; in fact, beneath the dignity of a surgeon to receive. For instance, I know of one case where he was in attendance for thirty hours, for which he received the magnificent sum of 12s. 6d., out of which he returned to the parties 6s., and also gave 1s. to the midwife. Again, he attended a well-to-do farmer, five miles from his place of residence, last week, and gave two visits and an eight-ounce mixture, for which he charged 7s.

If such absurd charges are made, the profession must be lowered in the eyes of the people, when we ourselves value our services at such rates. I think it is high time the British Medical Association should make stated charges for our guidance.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

HUGH P. PRICE, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.

Narberth, South Wales, April 14th, 1883.

SCARLET FEVER ON BOARD THE "MAES."

SIR,—I have only now noticed the paragraph on page 475 of your JOURNAL of March 10th, in which you say that the Dundee Royal Infirmary and the Epidemic Hospital authorities refused to take any of the scarlet fever cases from the training-ship *Mars*; and add, "to say the least, this is strange." The Epidemic Hospital authorities may answer for themselves, if they can. In the case of the Infirmary, there is nothing strange about it. I explained to the secretary of the *Mars*, when he called on me, that the scarlet fever space at the disposal of the Infirmary was already overcrowded.—Yours very truly,

R. NEAVES M'COSH, M.D.

Dundee Royal Infirmary, March 19th, 1883.

PREVENTION OF LACERATION OF THE FEMALE PERINEUM.

SIR,—There is nothing new in this procedure, for German midwives have practised it probably for centuries. Franz Karl Nägele says, in his *Manual of Midwifery*: Heidelberg, 1847, "The midwife must on no account presume to dilate the mouth of the womb, or to pull at the anterior lip of the same, or to dilate the vagina, or its outer orifice, or pull back the perineum, or anoint the parts with fat. This causes pain and irritation, is of no kind of use, and does harm."

Dr. Hermann Franz Nägele mentions these proceedings of midwives in more precise terms of reprobaton.—Yours truly,

124, Fulham Road, S.W., April 1st, 1883. V. POULAIN, M.D., M.R.C.S.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE following questions in anatomy and physiology were submitted to the candidates at the primary examination on March 30th.—*Anatomy* (Four questions, not more, to be answered.) 1. Describe the dissection by which you would expose the genio-hyo-glossus muscle. 2. Describe the os magnum. 3. Describe the course, relations, and tributaries of the innominate veins. 4. Give the dissection required to expose the tendon of the peroneus longus in the sole of the foot. 5. Enumerate in their relative positions the muscles which are in contact with the capsular ligament of the hip-joint; name those muscles which rotate the femur outwards, and those which rotate it inwards. 6. Describe the fascia transversalis. *Physiology*.—1. What is the composition of the blood?—state the uses of its various constituents. 2. Classify food stuffs in the order of their value as heat-producers—give your reasons for the order in which you place them. 3. Describe the structure of lymphoid tissue, and state where it occurs. 4. Describe the act of deglutition. 5. Explain the mechanism of ordinary inspiration and expiration. 6. Describe the formation and uses of the placenta.

PRESCRIBING CHEMISTS.

SIR,—A chemist residing in another town some distance from here has taken a shop in this place, and placed an assistant in it to carry on the business. The assistant sees patients and prescribes for them in a consulting room attached or adjacent to shop, and attends to accidents, etc. I also have reason to believe he sees patients at their own houses, and sends medicine. May I ask if this is legal, and if there is any way of preventing it?—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

MEMBER.

* * The conduct described above is clearly illegal; and, if witnesses can be procured to prove the facts, proceedings can be taken under the Apothecaries' Act.

PORRO'S OPERATIONS IN ITALY.

IN a recent number, under this heading, the *Medical News* remarked, that "it would be interesting to know how many of the children survived." To this query, Dr. R. P. Harris replies: There have been, as far as published in the journals of Italy, 43 Porro's operations in that country, saving 18 women and 38 children. The last 28 operations, dating from May 16th, 1879, saved 14 women, or 50 per cent. This may be considered a fair estimate of the mortality of the operation at the present time in Italy, in making a prospective calculation of the risk. The earlier the operation after labour has fairly commenced, the greater the hope of success.

CELLULOID CATHETERS.

SIR,—I shall feel much obliged if you, or any of your correspondents, will tell me if there is any objection to the use of celluloid catheters by patients who have been taught to pass instruments for themselves? My reason for asking is, because the only celluloid catheters I have seen appeared to have been made without a textile base, such as the gum-elastic ones have, and therefore looked as though they might snap off short. They are flexible enough when new, but will they remain so and not become brittle?—Yours faithfully,

Grenada, W. Indies, February 26th, 1883.

H. J. L. B.

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

Mr. A. E. Livsey, Liverpool; Dr. Herman, London; Dr. R. J. Roulston, Axminster; Dr. A. T. Brett, Watford; Dr. T. Joyce, Cranbrook; Mr. E. W. Robertson, Aberdeen; Mr. Nelson Hardy, London; Mr. Fred. A. Eaton, London; Dr. A. Duncan, London; Mr. R. Gillard, London; Mr. Edward Crossman, Hambrook; Dr. Brand, Driffield, Yorkshire; Dr. Needham, Gloucester; Dr. A. B. Garrod, London; Dr. Imlach, Liverpool; Mr. W. Rogers Williams, London; Mr. W. Dunnett Spanton, Hanley; Mr. W. Alpin, Jersey; Mr. C. H. Phillips, Hanley; Dr. Camille Rousset, Paris; Mr. Alfred Craske, London; Mr. W. E. Softe, East Harling; Dr. C. Holman, Reigate; Mr. John Clay, Birmingham; Dr. Crichton Browne, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. R. T. B. Cooke, Scarborough; Mr. Andrew Spearing, Shaw; Mr. C. H. Johnson, Basingstoke; Dr. Auspitz, Vienna; Mr. J. Penn Gaunt, Alvechurch; Dr. G. W. Crowe, Worcester; Dr. Cosmo G. Logie, London; Mr. H. B. Mosse, Wandsworth; Dr. A. Emrys Jones, Manchester; Dr. H. Boothby Dow, London; Dr. Ewing Whittle, Liverpool; Dr. W. H. FitzPatrick, Liverpool; Mr. Frank Spence, Manchester; Mr. Hugh Price, Narberth; Dr. Sutherland, London; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Dr. G. Oliver, Harrogate; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Mrs. Codd, West Worthing; Dr. S. Wilks, London; Dr. Oliver, Maidstone; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Mr. John Barr, Rishton, Blackburn; Dr. C. E. Glascott, Manchester; Mr. W. L'Heureux Blenkarne, Buckingham; Mr. Drummond Macdonald, Liverpool; Mr. J. C. Jackson, Bourne; Dr. McKendrick, Glasgow; Dr. S. W. Smith, Pershore; Mr. J. G. Clendinnen, Coseley; Mr. W. A. Harrison, Pontefract; Mr. J. W. Martin, Sheffield; Mr. F. J. Buckell, London; Mr. Arthur Kempe, Exeter; Mr. Wm. C. Blackett, Durham; Mr. W. De Rosario, Punjab; Mr. T. E. Dove, London; Mr. James J. Marsh, Manchester; Dr. W. J. Kennedy, Penicuik; Mr. J. Wheeler, Ilfracombe; Mr. Edmond Shackleton, South Norwood; Dr. J. G. Parsons, Bristol; Mr. W. H. Day, Norwich; Dr. J. E. Bullock, London; Mr. A. F. McGill, Leeds; Dr. Rogers, London; The Secretary of the Ulster Medical Society; Mr. J. H. Buxton, London; Messrs. Brown, Gould, and Co., London; Mr. Edward Wood Foster, Darlington; Professor McKendrick, Glasgow; Dr. E. J. Nix, London; Mr. Lawrence Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. Manson Fraser, London; Our Paris Correspondent; Mr. J. G. Douglas Kerr, Bath; Mr. G. F. Blake, London; Mr. Vallance, Whitechapel; The Secretary of the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Dr. Boggs, Paris; Mr. C. G. Woodhouse, Leeds; Mr. T. C. O'Leary, Bath; Mr. Sells, London; Dr. W. T. Walsham, London; Dr. Markham Skerritt, Bristol; Mr. Henry Alexander, London; Dr. C. Elliott, Bristol; Dr. G. T. Stack, London; Mr. R. A. Jackson, London; Mr. T. Whitehead Reid, Canterbury; Sir J. E. Eardley Wilmot, London; Dr. W. Carline, Lincoln; Messrs. Heineken, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. F. G. Sadd, Rugby; Mr. E. Rice Morgan, Morriston; Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Mr. Arthur Jackson, Sheffield; Dr. J. W. Langmore, London; Mr. H. Miles, London; Dr. Channing, Ryde; Dr. R. Wade Savage, London; Dr. Aitken, Rome; Dr. L. W. Marshall, Nottingham; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

What To Do in Cases of Poisoning. By William Murrell, M.D., M.R.C.P. Third Edition. London: H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street, W.C. 1883.

Indigestion, Bilioussness, and Gout in its Protean Aspects. Part II: Gout, in its Protean Aspects. By J. Milner Fothergill, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street. 1883.

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