

## LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

### THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,—I am a weekly reader of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, yet I was unaware that your valuable services were to be so gracefully recognised as at the recent great professional meeting at Grosvenor House.

The BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is a literary pleasure; it is powerful through your energy; it not only faithfully records the theories, the deeds, and the experimental knowledge of those who stand in the temple of Æsculapius, but I am sure that it is exercising a social and salutary influence unique in medical literature.

The interest in your articles on social, sanitary, temperance, and economical questions, extends beyond the circle of our profession, and ramifies widely in Society, which thus sees that our aspirations are not limited by professional selfishness, but are prompted by a desire to "do good unto all men."—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

EDW. WOOD FORSTER, Member of the Victoria Institute.

7, West Terrace, Darlington, April 18th, 1883.

\*.\* We have received numerous letters of kindly congratulation and comment on the occasion of the recent presentation, many of them intended for publication. While making grateful acknowledgment of these courteous and welcome communications, we trust our inability to publish them will not be supposed to arise from any want of appreciation. We have also to thank Mr. *Punch* and many other contemporaries for their most kind and deeply felt words of sympathy and approval.

ERRATA.—In the report of the Clinical Society, published at page 772 of last week's BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, first column, ninth line from the bottom of the page, it is stated that, on January 13th, Mr. Roth's patient, who had, three weeks previously, commenced his treatment for lateral curvature of the spine, passed the whole day without headache for the first time for two years. The word in italics should have been *backache*.

### AN APPEAL.

SIR,—A member of our profession, well known to us, who has been obliged through deafness to relinquish his practice at Potter's Bar, is now without resources, and very anxious for employment.

His wife, the daughter of a medical man, one of the founders of the Medical Benevolent College, is a lady of most exceptional qualifications, who could take charge of any public institution, with superintendence of children, nurses, and the household, whilst the husband could supervise and attend to correspondence, and keep an eye on the sanitary state of the building. All who know them feel how specially they are qualified for the work proposed.

It is in the hope that your readers may be able to suggest or discover some suitable post, that we venture to ask you to give publicity to this letter.—I am, etc.,

E. SYMES THOMPSON.  
JOHN GAY.

### RED GAS-LAMPS.

SIR,—There is a doctor in this town who displays two large red gas-lamps outside his house, with his name thereon, presumably for the purpose of advertisement. May I ask you, sir, for your opinion upon the matter, as to whether you think it decent or professional, and if it is not tending to degrade the medical man in the eyes of the public?—I am, sir, yours truly,

M. T.

\*.\* The use of red lamps by medical men seems to be a survival of the custom of distinguishing shops by sign-boards, which was at one time universal, and was doubtless common among apothecaries. It is a custom possibly "more honoured in the breach than the observance" at the present time, but we are not prepared to say that it is unprofessional, nor that anyone who follows it deserved to be gibbeted.

A. T. had better apply to a job-master, as we think the information which he can obtain from this source is likely to be more accurate than that he would obtain by applying to the editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

### EPITHELIOMA OF THE LOWER LIP IN WOMEN.

SIR,—With reference to this subject, as there is a letter in the JOURNAL of April 14th from Dr. J. O. Wilson of Huntly, N.B., I beg to say that I have under care at the present time a woman, aged 58, with this disease. Whether it is caused by smoking or not, I cannot say. She is, however, in the habit of doing so, and has been for many years; leading one to suppose that this is the case. This is the only case in a woman I have ever seen, but I have seen many the other sex.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The gentlemen retiring from the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in July next are, we believe, Messrs. John Birkett, Prescott Hewett, and J. Cooper Forster. The two first-named gentlemen, who have held the highest offices in the colleges, will not, we understand, seek re-election; but Mr. Forster, the Vice-President, will, of course, again offer himself, and no doubt be re-elected. The only candidates we have yet heard of are, Mr. Alfred Baker of Birmingham, a former member of the Council, Mr. Reginald Harrison of Liverpool, Mr. Macnamara of the Westminster Hospital, and Sir William MacCormac of St. Thomas's Hospital.

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

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