

INVALID'S HOME.

SIR,—If "A. A. B." will send me his address, I will forward him a prospectus of the Bollingbroke Hospital—the very place for which he is inquiring.—Faithfully yours,
H. R. MOSS, Resident Medical Officer.
Bollingbroke House Pay Hospital, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PERINEUM.

SIR,—In a letter which appears with much authority in the JOURNAL on the management of the perineum, the author appears to consider only mechanical causes for its natural dilatation, as well as in the artificial mode which he adopts. My observation leads me to infer that in cases of rigidity, both of the internal and external parts, a natural dilatation of the parts often takes place, with so much rapidity and so little apparent cause, that it can only be accounted for by supposing, what would appear highly probable, that is, a reflex or sympathetic nervous influence. Perhaps the truth is to be found, in this as in most medical matters, in the experience of each individual and each case. I would remark that the external parts are often extremely sensitive, much more so than the os uteri; and I am afraid that many patients will complain loudly of the proceeding which Dr. A. Duke recommends, whilst the love of others will wax cold. If medical gentlemen find that such considerations as I suggest seem to them true of their patients and cases, reflection may deter very young accoucheurs, not perhaps possessing Dr. A. Duke's skill, from persevering too much in a plan not recommended in the text-books.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
CHARLES YOUNG.
Chilton Folden, March 13th, 1883.

NON-INTOXICATING BEVERAGES.

SIR,—After years of abuse for my "teetotal bigotry and fanaticism," it is positively refreshing to be now called to account in your correspondence column for an approval of popular non-intoxicating beverages, even though these contain some alcohol, and for the moderation of my advocacy of temperance. The exercise of a little thought and knowledge would have shown your correspondents that I could not have commended a drink containing 5 per cent. of alcohol. This was a printer's error; it should have been 0.5 (i.e. $\frac{1}{2}$) per cent. I have no desire to see the Government standard of non-intoxicability in beverages altered; but when an attempt was made from a non-scientific temperance quarter to induce you and the British Medical Association to bring pressure to bear on the Government to impose a spirit duty on non-intoxicating drinks, it did seem to be the duty of some known upholder of total abstinence to repudiate and give the *coup de grace* to the proposal, which I have some reason to believe that I have done.

Neither can I agree that "the use of the so-called temperance beverages marks a middle ground between the non-abstainers and the abstainer of some standing." My abstaining friends are mostly veterans of from forty to fifty years' practice of teetotalism, and they nearly all enjoy such drinks.

Probably my experience in the treatment of dipsomania in America and here is as great as that of your correspondents, and I have no hesitation in restating my opinion that good non-intoxicating drinks, whether they contain alcohol or carbonic acid, are, in moderation, safe for reformed inebriates.

If anyone choose to abstain from ginger beer because it may contain a non-intoxicating proportion of alcohol, well and good. That is his affair. But what the reformed inebriate has to avoid is all intoxicating drinks; and the total abstinence movement is a movement to inculcate total abstinence—from what? Why, from intoxicating liquor.—Your obedient servant,
March 26th, 1883. NORMAN KERR, M.D.

LOCALISED DIAPHORESIS.

SIR,—I shall be exceedingly obliged if you, or any of your correspondents, will kindly suggest some means of inducing diaphoresis of one arm without affecting the whole body. I have tried vapour-baths, both Turkish and Russian, also alkaline baths with kneading, and now intend trying pilocarpine as a lotion applied on lint, and covered with oiled silk. I enclose my card, and remain, yours faithfully,
PUZZLED.

MR. POSTER is thanked for his kind expressions, which are much valued.

MEDDLESOME MIDWIFERY.

SIR,—In the progress that science is now making, with all her engines at high pressure, it may occasionally be useful to pause, and examine the machinery a little, by way of caution, and so perchance prevent some young, ardent, and inexperienced minds from getting into confusion, and probably disaster. Of late, I have observed in your JOURNAL a little of this confusion in the recommendations made for assisting women in labour, and I have been forcibly reminded of one of the favourite maxims of that cautious and practical, though somewhat eccentric teacher, the late James Blundell, who was continually dinning into the ears of those who had the privilege of listening to his lectures, this important truth, "meddlesome midwifery is bad." A German teacher, quoted in your last number, seems to be of the same opinion. One might readily imagine the horror that would have been depicted on the countenances of these old-fashioned teachers, had they been told that, in the present year of grace, it was seriously recommended to "tug with hooked fingers" at the perineum, between the pains, in order to keep up "continuous extension."

It would almost appear that the great fact that a labour, for the most part, as a natural process, and not a disease, is ignored by the fast practitioners of the present busy and impulsive age, and that plain common sense is not unfrequently pushed on one side to make room for an exhibition of uncommon nonsense; when failure takes place in these experimental, not to say empirical proceedings, it may not untruly be said that the unobtrusive and beneficial operations of the "*vis medicatrix nature*," are frustrated or delayed by "oppositions of science, falsely so called." What is said of midwifery, when meddlesome, is equally applicable to medicine and surgery.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,
HENRY MEYMOTT.
Ludlow, April 24th, 1883.

CELLULOID CATHETERS.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondence, "H. J. E. B." I would state that a patient of mine, who has drawn his own urine off three or four times daily for the last two years, broke a celluloid catheter about one inch above the eye (the fracture was clean and vitreous), after using it only a few times. I consider these catheters safe only in the hands of a skilled person.—Yours truly,
T. WHITEHEAD REID.
Canterbury, April 24th, 1883.

AN APPEAL.

SIR,—I venture to appeal on behalf of the widow and three children of Benjamin T. Moore, M.D., who died at Kineton on April 30th, leaving his family in the most abject and utter destitution. They are totally unprovided for in any way, and are literally penniless. Any subscriptions, however trifling, to tide Mrs. Moore over the present, until some steps can be taken on her behalf, will be thankfully received by the Rev. F. Miller, M.A., Kineton, Warwick—I am, yours faithfully,
KENNETH W. MILLIGAN, M.R.C.S.
April 21st, 1883.

SELF-ACCUSATION.

A BUSY doctor sent in a certificate of death, and accidentally signed his name in the space for "cause of death."—*Phila. Med. Times.*

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

The Secretary of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch; Dr. Polard, Liverpool; The Honorary Secretaries of the National Veterinary Association; Dr. Whittle, Liverpool; Mr. A. Teevan, London; The Secretary of the Crystal Palace Company; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Dr. Willoughby, London; Our Rome Correspondent; The Secretary of the Harveian Society; Mr. H. Grey Edwards, Bangor; Professor McKendrick, Glasgow; Dr. William Easby, Wandsworth Common; Dr. E. Pollock, Glasgow; Dr. Fox, Stockton-on-Tees; Dr. A. Emrys Jones, Manchester; Mr. James Oliver, London; Mr. John H. Gornall, Warrington; Dr. John Woodman, Exeter; Dr. William Carpenter, London; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Messrs. J. H. Chambers and Co., St. Louis; Dr. Duffey, Dublin; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. A. H. Twining, Salcombe; Mr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Mr. J. Blake, Dublin; Dr. Havard, Shaw; Mr. L. Humphry, Cambridge; Mr. M. Duggan, Castle Eden; Mr. Leicester Holmes, New York; Mr. C. Lennox Peel, London; Mr. Frederick Page, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. W. R. Huggard, London; Mr. R. Eardley Wilmot, Petworth; Mr. W. W. Reeves, London; Mr. James T. Laffan, London; Mr. C. F. Wardley, Buxton; Dr. W. A. Fitzgerald, Dublin; Dr. W. Alexander, Liverpool; Dr. Arthur H. Benson, Dublin; Dr. Charles Renner, London; Mr. E. T. Burton, Birmingham; The Secretary of the University of Edinburgh; Dr. Idelson, Berne; Mr. J. F. Owen, Liverpool; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Messrs. Waukenphast and Co., London; Mr. M. Monkton, Maidstone; Secretary of the Midland Medical Society, Birmingham; Mr. W. Hickman, London; Mr. G. A. Gaskoin, London; Dr. A. B. Garrod, London; Dr. T. W. Trend, Southampton; Mr. W. N. Hobart, Londonderry; Mr. J. Gillingham, Chard; Mr. Warrington Haward, London; Mr. Arthur Jackson, Harrogate; Dr. C. Concanon, Hadfield, near Manchester; Mr. Arthur Cooper, London; Dr. Myrtle, Harrogate; Mrs. L. A. Duke, Bray, co. Dublin; Mr. S. S. D. Wells, Plymouth; Mr. W. S. Granger, Wareham; Mr. Walsham, London; Mr. R. W. Thomas, Keynsham; Mr. J. Horatio Baldwin; Mr. George Eastes, London; Dr. Thomas Sanctuary, Salisbury; The Lady Superintendent of Nurses' Infirmary, Chichester; The Honorary Secretary of the Odontological Society; Mr. T. W. Price, Birmingham; Dr. T. A. O. Partridge, Dibrugarh, Assam; Dr. A. Dempsey, Belfast; Dr. James Neal, Sandown; Mr. F. H. V. Grosholz, Aberdeen; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. H. Nelson Hardy, London; Mr. G. R. Turner, London; Mr. F. J. Buckell, London; Mr. Nettleship, London; Dr. T. O. Gilmore, Londonderry; Mr. W. T. Bottomley, Shipley; Mr. A. C. Bridges, Birmingham; Mr. W. Roger Williams, London; Mr. J. H. Whitham, Harworth; Dr. J. M. Rhodes, Didsbury; Mr. D. S. Park, Houghton-le-Spring; Dr. W. W. Hardwicke, Rotherham; Mr. S. Burrows, Witheridge; Mr. John Brown, Bacup; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. G. H. J. Dinmore, London; Mr. T. Whitehead Reid, Canterbury; Dr. J. Airlidge, Stoke-upon-Trent; Mr. R. Barrington Cooke, Scarborough; Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, London; Hon. A. H. Mundella, London; The Secretary of the Dental Hospital, London; Mr. E. M. Owens, Leamington; Rev. M. H. C. Shelton, Portland; Mr. G. A. Farrer, Brighouse; Mr. S. G. Stoman, jun., Farnham; Messrs. Loefflund and Co., London; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. J. Francis Sutherland, Glasgow; Mr. E. Prideaux, Wellington; Mr. John Glover, Dorington, Shrewsbury, etc.

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