

## A WORD ON THE SIDE OF THE SHOEMAKER.

SIR,—The article in your issue of April 21st on "The Choice of Boots and Shoes" has come under our notice. The great aim of all such articles seems to us to be to try to prove that shoemakers want educating, and showing how to make shoes. According to you, we shoemakers violate one of the very fundamental principles of making, by not allowing sufficiently for the necessary expansion of the foot in walking. You seem to ignore the fact that we always take an outline of the foot standing on the ground, with the whole weight of the body resting upon it. This, of course, expands the foot considerably, both in length and breadth. On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that, were boots to be made of the width of the foot, when the weight of the body is upon it, they would simply be unwearable, for the very reason that they could be kicked off the foot at will, by being much too large.

The principles you advocate and the faults you find have been known to shoemakers for generations. The public have much to answer for, in the misshapen boots and shoes that are often seen. As you know, people will have what they want, and not what the tradesman wishes them to have; and if they cannot get the article they require, they will go elsewhere for it. As, therefore, we have to get our living, we must supply the article that is required, whatever our opinion may be of it, or go to the wall.—We remain, sir, yours truly,

London, April 28th, 1888.

WAUKENHAST AND CO.

\*\* The object of our annotation was certainly not to "prove that shoemakers want educating, and showing how to make shoes." The general public, rather than shoemakers, are probably in most instances to blame for yielding to the pernicious demands of fashion in the choice of boots and shoes. It is only by diffusing, and repeatedly insisting upon, the true physiological principles which ought to be recognised in the selection of coverings for the feet, that the public taste can be reformed, and the evils to which we have drawn attention be remedied. We appreciate the improvements which shoemakers have made, and are still effecting, in the directions we have indicated.

C. S. T. is referred to the answers which have appeared on this question more than once in the numbers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for the current year.

## MORNING CUP OF TEA.

SIR,—Will some of your readers give their opinion as to whether the above is injurious, either to nervous, digestive, or urinary systems; or in any other way harmful? and, if so, why? The custom prevails very generally, especially with, yours truly,

MEMB. BRIT. MED. ASSOCIATION.

ERRATA.—In Dr. M. Pallen's article, "On some Points in the Reporative Surgery of the Genital Tracts," published in the JOURNAL, May 5th, at page 853, column i, line 25 from bottom, for "conglutination" read "coagulation;" and on page 854, column i, line 25, for "B, Fig. 3" read "B, Fig. 2."—In a letter on "An Intolerable Nuisance," at page 887, line 10 from top, for "started" read "steeled," and for "start" read "steel."

## SEA-SICKNESS.

SIR,—Will any of your readers oblige me by stating what is the best means for the prevention and cure of sea-sickness.—I am, sir, yours truly,

A MEMBER.

M.B. C.M.—A Digest of the Law relating to Public Health and Local Government, by Mr. G. F. Chambers, F.R.A.S., 8th edition (Stevens and Son).

## THE COLD WEATHER OF MARCH.

THE Swiss meteorological reports attribute the quite exceptional cold of the month of March, 1883, to the enormous snowfall. The quantity and extent of the snow appear to have been abnormal for the time of the year. The depth and range of the snow-masses hindered the operation of the sun's rays upon the soil, and the wind streaming across snowy mountains and plains from north, east, and north-east, operated as a positive cooler. Hence the sun exercised less heating power, and the wind exercised more cooling power, throughout the whole month than is the rule for March. Notably, white bodies are those which are least fitted to convey the sun's beams, as they reject or reflect a portion of the light and heat-force. When the white body is ice or snow thousands of miles in extent, traversed also by continual wind, the exceptional coldness of the ground and the atmosphere is easily to be understood. During the whole month of March, the northern hemisphere was not merely covered intermittently with snow, but new snowfalls were constantly reported. The same report is given of the mountain districts of South Russia, Turkey, Hungary, Italy, and Spain. The sun's rays had no chance of coming into actual contact with the surface of the soil over a very large part of Europe, which in itself was something abnormal for the first month of spring. At the same time, the ice-cooled wind, sweeping over enormous ranges of snow, was positively cooling the entire area of Europe.

A. H.—Apply to the Secretary of the College for the last Calendar, which will give you the desired information.

## THE BREAD-PILL CURE OF HYSTERIA.

M.M. LANDOUZY and Ballet, in the *Revue Mensuelle de Médecine*, give the history of an hysterical patient to which it is well to give an extended publicity, not because it presents any novel feature but as a proof of the scientific errors of those ill-trained minds which attribute the cure of hysteria to supernatural influences. An hysterical patient, twenty-six years of age, who had previously suffered from chorea, was received in the wards of the Charité. There was very marked contraction of the lower limbs, and the patient was unable to execute the slightest movement, not being even able to raise herself in bed. After one or two hypodermic injections of morphia, given at her express desire, she was told that she should have a more energetic remedy, and must use it cautiously. On October 7th, bread-pills were prescribed, and the next morning she related that wishing to poison herself, she had swallowed the pills; at once the effect was terrible, but soon after she was able to walk a little, and eagerly asked to have another pill; this was accorded, and resulted in her completely recovery. Two days later on she helped to clean the wards. In a month's time she left the hospital.

## BALNEOLOGY.

SIR,—Will you allow me to direct the attention of "Disinganno" to Section 238, where he will find a vast fund of information relating to balneology; also to Sections 617 to 622, where "Anxiety" may refresh his memory with all the varied treatments of cramp adopted during the last forty years; while "Puzzled" may, in Section 28:1, learn that belladonna and atropine, locally and constitutionally, succeed in curing localised sweatings, besides seeing at a glance under what circumstances these conditions occur, and what other remedies have been used.—Yours,

MEDICAL DIGEST.

MR. T. P. TAYLOR, House-Surgeon, Essex and Colchester Hospital, asks: "Is it not very unusual to have a case of aneurysm in a young person aged 20, and with only a history of six months' illness?"

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

Dr. Brailey, London; Dr. H. Stollerfoth, Chester; Miss F. Lankester, London; Dr. D. Drummond, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. A. Garvey Kelly, Navan; Dr. D'Arcy Adams, London; Mr. Edward East, London; Dr. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. A. Emrys-Jones, Manchester; Dr. A. Creswell Rich, Liverpool; Mr. J. Fenn Clark, Leamington; Dr. J. A. Mackenzie, Farnworth, Bolton; Mr. E. Noble Smith, London; Dr. John Cooke, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh; The Secretary of the Local Government Board; Dr. Manson Fraser, London; Mr. F. C. Richardson, London; Mr. Hugh Taylor, Coltishall, Norfolk; Mr. E. Nock, London; Mr. S. W. North, York; Dr. J. W. Martin, Sheffield; Mr. Shirley F. Murphy, London; Dr. McKendrick, Glasgow; Mr. W. Eassie, London; Mr. W. Walker, Redcar; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Mr. D. C. Black, Glasgow; Dr. T. M. Dolan, Halifax; Mr. J. Brindley James, London; Mr. A. C. McEwen, Chester; Mr. R. B. Sellers, Rochdale; Mr. F. Nash, Todmorden; Dr. Murray Lindsay, Derby; *Medical Digest*; Dr. Ralfe, London; Leamington Medical Book Club; An Old Physician; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; The Secretary of the Chelsea Hospital for Women; Dr. Montrose A. Pallen, London; Mr. P. H. Emerson, Cambridge; Mr. E. J. Adkins, Hastings; The Honorary Secretary of the Harveian Society; Dr. Ravenhill, Birmingham; Mr. Edward Bellis, London; Meteorological Society; Dr. Robertson, Buxton; Mr. J. R. Upton, London; Dr. Danford Thomas, London; Mr. F. P. Taylor, Colchester; Messrs. Ingram and Royle; Mr. David Hadden, Weston, Wexford; Mr. J. Prince Stallard, Worcester; Mr. W. Bain, Manchester; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. H. Nelson Hardy, Dulwich; Dr. A. H. Bampton, Plymouth; Mr. James Arthur, Wingate; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. A. Erskine Stuart, Healey; Mr. G. J. Roberts, Festiniog; Dr. W. Clibborn, Birmingham; Mr. John Brown, Bacup; F. Z. S.; Mr. C. H. Glassington, London; Mr. Josiah Williams, Sheffield; Mr. Dolan, Halifax; Mr. G. C. Jackson, London; Mr. H. Lionel Smith, Uttoxeter; Dr. A. Sheen, Cardiff; Mr. W. E. C. Nourse, Exeter; Mr. Kenneth Millican, Kington; Dr. W. Kebbell, Hove; Mr. Percy R. Wyde, Bath; Mr. Charles S. Ticehurst, Petersfield, Hants; Mr. G. A. Thompson, Amptill; University of Dublin; Mr. Hadley, London; Mr. W. Edwin Williams, Abertillery, near Newport; Dr. Rawlings, Swansea; Pharmaceutical Society; Mr. Thomas Collier, Ripon; Dr. Glover, London; Dr. W. Newman, Stamford; Mr. O. Meredith Jones, London, etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A Text-Book of Physiology. By M. Foster, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. With Illustrations. Fourth Edition Revised. London: Macmillan and Co. 1883.

Transfusion; Its History, Indications, and Modes of Application. By Charles Jennings, L.R.C.P., Lond. With Engravings, illustrating the Author's Syphon for Intraneous Injection and Immediate Transfusion, and a Bibliographical Index. London: Ballière, Tindall, and Cox. 1883.

Practical Lessons in Elementary Physiology and Physiological Anatomy for School and Science Classes. By D. M. Alpine, F.O.S. Twelve Plates with Practical Directions and Explanatory Text. London: Ballière, Tindall, and Cox. 1883.

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