

COFFEE IN DYSPEPSIA AND TORPID LIVER.

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of January 5th, a "Bilious Physician" asks for some information as to the influence of coffee in flatulent dyspepsia and torpid liver.

Having suffered from torpid, and also from congested liver, at intervals during the last eight years, and seen much of these affections in others, my experience leads me to the conclusion that coffee is generally as beneficial in one as it is injurious in the other. To this rule, however, there are many exceptions. For many years past, unless when congestion was present, I have found coffee infinitely more useful than any other beverage, in relieving depression of spirits, constipation, and flatulence. In such cases tea is invariably injurious, owing to the nausea, muscular relaxation and palpitation which it causes. This drug (for coffee and tea should be looked upon as medicinal agents) is followed by symptoms somewhat analogous to those set up in many people by the use of tobacco. Nor, indeed, is coffee to be taken indiscriminately, too concentrated, or in excess, for then palpitation, frequency and irregularity of pulse, singing in the ears, sleeplessness, confusion of the senses, and even delirium will result. In one case that came under my notice, the use of coffee was followed by neuralgic pains in the liver, which were both distressing and prolonged, and it has been known to cause toothache and migraine.

There can, I think, be no doubt that amongst the effects of coffee are increased activity of the organs of digestion and secretion. As a vasculo-nervine stimulant, it increases the appetite which its rival, tea, so often destroys. It also excites the functions of the kidney, liver, and intestines. In active hepatic congestion and perihepatitis, so common in the tropics, and even amongst those who return therefrom, owing to this vascular excitement which it causes, coffee should be given with a sparing hand, or not at all. Here, in my opinion, cocoa is the beverage *par excellence*, at once nourishing, calmative, and refreshing.—Your obedient servant,

27, Welbeck Street, W., January 4th, 1884. D. H. CULLIMORE, M.D., etc.

A DEFENCE OF DOCKING HORSES.

SIR,—I have for years been a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of this district, and have always been greatly attached to animals, especially horses, never being without one or two in my stable; nevertheless, I fail to see that your correspondent grasps fairly the subject of "docking," on which he writes, as all know that Providence has mercifully given a horse a long tail to prevent insects from biting him; he has also power over his skin quite sufficient to disturb his small enemies. His long tail is all very well when he is not in work, but it is extremely dangerous when he is. When once the dock is over the reins, no manual power will prevent a fearful accident; the animal becomes infuriated and bolts, leaving the rest to be imagined better than described.

I had a long docked horse once, and it will be the last, nearly having been killed in the way mentioned. I consider docking as essential as castration. Your correspondent may say: Raise your splash-rail; but if you do, you will have no control over your horse unless you drive from a coach-box.

Another argument in favour of docking is cleanliness. I deny that the operation can be performed for the sake of beauty, for nature is beauty; but, supposing it is, any horse would gladly lose his tail to be admitted into good society.

Children are vaccinated to prevent them from getting and spreading a certain disease, so in docking the small amount of necessary suffering prevents them from injuring themselves and breaking their drivers' necks.—I am, etc.,

WALTER BUCHANAN.

ERRATUM.—In the JOURNAL of January 5th, page 31, column i, line 11 from bottom, for "Mr. Smith, of Bromsgrove," read "Mr. Smith-Batten, of Bromsgrove."

MALFORMATIONS.

SIR,—In 1861, when in practice at Clapton, I delivered a woman of a foetus precisely similar to the one reported in the JOURNAL of December 8th by Mr. Graham. The mother, at a very early period of her pregnancy, was struck between the eyes with a small eel, just caught by her boy in the Lea, which accidentally slipped from a piece of thread while the boy was slinging it round to show her, and to this she attributed the malformation. The specimen is now in the museum at Lincoln's Inn, and was of the feminine sex.

Shortly after this case, I attended a woman in the same neighbourhood with a monstrosity having two heads and three legs, and which case was published by the late Dr. Phillips in *Guy's Hospital Reports*. The mother attributed this abnormal birth to an impression made upon her some seven months previously when seeing the Siamese twins.

In the following year, I also delivered a woman of a full-time male child, minus the left forearm. She had, some few months previously, left an hospital in which an amputation of the forearm had taken place, and had seen the case dressed.

These cases are, I think, some evidence of the effects of maternal impression.—I am, etc., C. H. WELCH, F.R.C.S., etc.
Rock Gardens, Brighton.

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY.

SIR,—Can any of your subscribers kindly suggest what course of study a gentleman should pursue who is anxious to be an analytical chemist?—Yours faithfully, J. C. M.

DIPSOMANIA.

SIR,—I should feel very much obliged if you, or some of your readers, would kindly give me some suggestions as to the treatment of a mild case of dipsomania.

The patient is resident with me, and, in addition to the necessary supervision, I am at present giving him a mixture containing sulphate of iron and tincture of capsicum in clove-water, to be taken when there is any craving. As a drink at meals, he is taking a mixture of compound tincture of cinchona, tincture of capsicum, and syrup of oranges, with potash-water.

Is there any medicinal cure? We hear of many; and is there anything to be given when the periodical attacks of craving (to satisfy which he does his utmost, and often, I fear, successfully) occur? The patient himself is very anxious to be cured, but being one of those unfortunates who cannot easily say "no," his control over himself is very small. Whisky seems to be the desired beverage.—I am, sir, yours truly, X.

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

Mr. C. W. Thorp, Todmorden; Mr. Arthur Kempe, Exeter; Mr. R. Fitzroy Benham, London; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Dr. Robertson, Kimberley; The Secretary of the Devonshire Hospital and Buxton Bath Charity; Sir William Smart, K.C.B., London; Mr. Thomas Richards, Sydney; Dr. C. J. Hare, London; Mr. John Read, Rochdale; Mr. C. E. Parker, Rhodes; Mr. George Eastes, London; Mr. Stone, London; Dr. G. Thomson, Oldham; Dr. K. Gidding, Culverly; Mr. Ralph Holyoake, London; Mr. Josiah Williams, Sheffield; Sir E. A. H. Lechmere, London; Dr. R. S. Wise, Banbury; Mr. Charles Maas, Edgbaston, Birmingham; Messrs. Hootton and Yates, London; Dr. J. Martin, Belfast; Mr. Charles Ballard, Oxford; Mr. T. W. Thomas, Sheffield; Mr. F. C. Crosslé, Newry; A Perplexed Aunt; Mr. James M. McKee, Belfast; Mr. F. Wallace, London; Dr. MacCombie, London; Mr. W. W. Hardwicke, Rotherham; Dr. H. G. Moore, Ipswich; Mr. H. B. Runnalls, Saltash; Dr. Thin, London; Mr. T. G. Vawdrey, Handsworth; Mr. G. F. Hentsch, London; Mr. C. A. Daly, Hanley; Dr. T. M. Dolan, Halifax; Mr. W. L. Blenkarne, Buckingham; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Dr. E. Haughton, London; Mr. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Mr. R. W. Parker, London; Dr. W. E. Woodman, Croydon; Mr. De Vere Hunt, Bolton; Mr. James Hardie, Manchester; Mr. H. B. Blackburn, London; Mr. Alfred Teevan, London; Mr. H. A. Cleaver, Croydon; The Secretary of the Medical Society; Mr. R. Skidmore Wrack, London; Dr. J. T. Griffith, London; Dr. Julius Althaus, London; Dr. Sutherland, London; Dr. Broadbent, London; The Secretary of the Parkes Museum; Mr. J. Hutchinson, London; Dr. Murrell, London; Mr. E. Kennedy, Gorton; Dr. Charles Richet, Paris; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Collins, Nottingham; Mr. T. W. Dugleby, Driffield; Dr. J. Farquhar, Harrogate; Mr. H. Lamb, Carlisle; Dr. Benson, Dublin; Mr. H. W. Thompson, Omagh; Dr. Mackenzie, Glossop; Mr. T. H. Ravenhill, Birmingham; Dr. A. T. Myers, London; Mr. J. Reid, Rochdale; Messrs. Burgoyne, Burdidge, Cyriax and Co., London; Mr. W. Smith Batten, Bromsgrove; Mr. A. Lofthouse, Hemel Hempstead; Dr. Power, Portsea; Mr. J. Vesey Fitzgerald, London; Mr. A. Wynter Blyth, London; Dr. D. H. Cullimore, London; Mr. Hugh Orr, Filey; Mr. A. B. Bethune, Winnipeg, Canada; Mr. A. Simpson, Perth; Mr. H. A. Lediard, Carlisle; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Mr. F. Barnes, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. W. Berry, Wigan; Mr. R. F. Rand, Liverpool; Mr. M. R. J. Behrendt, Buryingham; Mr. E. W. Wallis, London; Mr. H. J. Pickering, London; The Honorary Secretaries of the Harveian Society; Messrs. Spottiswoode and Co., London; Messrs. H. and J. Cooper, London; Mr. J. W. Reynolds, Douglas, Isle of Man; Rev. Dr. Haughton, Dublin; Mr. T. J. Browne, Limerick; Mr. A. G. Knight, London; Mr. A. Stewart Brown, London; Mr. F. A. Southam, Manchester; Mr. E. H. Lipscomb, St. Alban's, Herts; Mr. T. F. Ordish, London; Mr. H. R. Ruckley, High Wycombe; Mr. J. Bain Sincok, Bridgewater; Mr. R. Thomas Jones, Harlech; Mr. Allen Fielding, Canterbury; The Honorary Secretaries of the Odontological Society; Mr. Leopold Hoff, Hamburg; Dr. Murphy, Sunderland; The Secretary of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow; Our Glasgow Correspondent, etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Legal Medicine. Part I. By Meymott Tidy, M.B. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1883.
How to Use our Eyes, and How to Preserve them by Aid of Spectacles. By John Browning. London: Chatto and Windus. 1883.
Practical Pathology; A Manual for Students and Practitioners. By G. Sims Woodhead, M.D. Edinburgh: Y. J. Pentland. 1883.
Good Remedies out of Fashion. By C. J. Hare, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1883.
Clinical Notes on Cancer, Its Etiology and Treatment. By H. L. Snow, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1883.
Essays on Diet. By F. W. Newman. London: Kegan, Paul, Trench and Co. 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.