

PAINS IN THE TIBIA, IN A HARD DRINKER.

SIR.—I have under treatment a patient, aged 55, a butcher, addicted to tippling, suffering from very severe aching pains in the left tibia from the knee to the ankle, and occasionally in the right. This came on as a sequel to slight pneumonia. There is no raised temperature, nor signs of local inflammation, nor evidence of syphilis, though the pains are very bad at night. The patient is emaciating, and the case has not at all yielded to the following treatment during two months: salicylate of potash, quinine, iodide of potash (up to five-grain doses three times a day), chloride of ammonium, belladonna, and opium. The local treatment has been morphia injected hypodermically, liniment of aconite, extract of belladonna, blisters, and hot fomentations. There is no evidence of kidney or heart-affection. I connect this distressing pain with his previous drinking habits, as I once had a very similar case; but I shall be very glad of some suggestion as to treatment.—Yours truly,

QUÆRENS.

SUNSHINE IN 1883.

SUMMARY of bright sunshine as recorded by W. E. Kilburn, Esq., St. Lawrence, I.W., compared with that at Kew recorded in the *Times*.

Summary of Months.

St. Lawrence.	Hrs. Mins.		Kew.		Hrs. Mins.	
	January	50	43	January	44	30
February	...	86	31	February	72	0
March	...	183	9	March	129	30
April	...	186	48	April	146	0
May	...	226	32	May	212	30
June	...	193	23	June	171	30
July	...	161	44	July	163	0
August	...	244	45	August	208	0
September	...	122	5	September	111	30
October	...	130	44	October	104	0
November	...	73	30	November	76	0
December	...	34	30	December	37	30
	1,694		1,476		0	

NOTE.—It is requisite to bear in mind that the foregoing tables contain the record only of bright sunshine, and do not include days which might otherwise come under the head of bright and sunny days; haze, or mist, or the passing of a light cloud arresting the power of the recording instrument. With regard to St. Lawrence, some allowance must also be made, in consequence of the Undercliff falling into shade between 6 and 7 in the evening during the summer months, depriving the instrument of a considerable amount of sunshine, which would otherwise be recorded in fine weather. There is also the same loss from the sun rising behind the Hill.

It will be perceived that the months given are not regular calendar months, the record of one month running occasionally into that of another, which arises from the necessity of making them correspond with the record published in the *Times* each Thursday.

The record at the Undercliff for 1883 appears to have been 14 hrs. 54 mins. less than that for 1882; while at Kew 31 hrs. 23 mins. more were recorded; the result being, 1882, St. Lawrence, 1,709 hrs. 18 mins.; Kew, 1,444 hrs. 37 mins.; 1883, St. Lawrence, 1,694 hrs. 24 mins.; Kew, 1,476 hrs.

PROFESSOR RINGER ON ERGOTINE.

SIR.—In reference to Professor Ringer's experiments with ergotine, recorded in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 19th, is there not a possible fallacy in the supposed result, in connection with the probability that, in such an animal as the tortoise, there will exist, present in or near the small arteries, peripheral nervous mechanisms capable of altering the calibre of the arterioles? Granted that such be the case, may the ergotine not act through these, and not directly on the muscular tissue of the arterial wall?—I remain, your obedient servant,

G. A. ATKINSON, M.B.

Edinburgh.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE following were the questions in Surgical Anatomy and Surgery, Midwifery and Diseases of Women, and Medicine, submitted to the candidates at the recent pass-examination for the diploma of member.

Surgical Anatomy and Surgery.—1. Describe the operation of tying the common carotid artery. Give the anatomical relations of the vessel in the neck. Mention the anastomoses for carrying on the circulation. 2. The male urethra being laid open along its upper surface in its entire course, describe the parts exposed to view. Give the relative dimensions of its various regions. Name the situations most prone to injury and disease. 3. Describe an ordinary case of suicidal "cut-throat." Give the treatment, immediate and remote, with any complications which may occur. 4. In what way does a strangulated differ from an obstructed (incarcerated) Hernia? Give the symptoms and appropriate treatment of each condition. 5. What parts are most frequently affected by epithelial cancer? Mention its most common local causes. Sketch its pathology and treatment. 6. Explain briefly the following terms: Cirsoid aneurysm; Pott's fracture; ectropion; Amussat's operation; ptosis; "réduction en masse."

Midwifery and Diseases of Women.—1. What discharges may take place from the genital canal during pregnancy? What are their causes? and how would you recognise them? 2. Describe the mechanism of labour, with the head presenting, and the occiput posterior and to the right. 3. Describe the cephalotribe, and mention the cases in which it is specially indicated. 4. What conditions produce enlargement of the cervix uteri, and how would you distinguish between them?

Medicine.—1. What are the causes, anatomical characters, symptoms, physical signs, and treatment of acute pericarditis? 2. Give an account of the clinical history of a typical case of measles, and indicate the chief complications and sequela to be feared. How would you treat it? and what measures would you take to prevent the spread of the disease? 3. What are the causes of pyloric obstruction? Point out its pathological effects, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment. 4. Mention the principal ingredients in the following officinal preparations, and give a concise account of their actions and therapeutic uses, with their doses: Pulvis jalapa compositus; liquor arsenicis; liquor hydrargyri perchloridi; mistura scammonii; pilula saponis composita; mistura ferri composita.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Teeth, their Formation, Diseases, and Treatment. By Thomas Gaddes. London: David Bogue. 1883.

Surgical Experience in the Zulu and Transvaal Wars 1879 and 1881. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd.

A Manual of Midwifery for Midwives. By Fancourt Barnes, M.D., M.R.C.P. With Illustrations. Second Edition. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1883.

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