

FOUL BEDDING.

SIR.—The friends of a lady suffering from uterine cancer, with profuse discharge, have asked me if there be any danger to any other person who may sleep in the same bed (hair-mattress) after it has been exposed in an empty attic for some months; or if the mattress should be stove, or destroyed. I have advised the middle course as a precaution, but should be glad of your opinion, and should also feel obliged if any of your correspondents would give me the address of a place in London where bedding, etc., can be disinfected by heat. Mackintosh-sheets were used during the whole of the time that the patient used the bed.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

W. L. EMMERSON.

Waltham, Melton Mowbray, March 4th, 1884.

* * If there be evidence that the discharges sometimes soaked into the mattress when the mackintosh-sheets were removed or displaced for a time, it would certainly be advisable to destroy the mattress. Septic germs hidden in a horsehair-mattress are not destroyed by exposure of the bedding in an empty attic for several months.

J. C. is desirous of being informed if there is any convalescent hospital on the Lancashire or Yorkshire coasts suitable for a patient recovering from inflammation of one lung. His friends will pay for his support.

HURRY AND WORRY.

MR. S. H. FISHER.—The pamphlet with this title, by Mr. T. Pridgin Teale, M.A., is published by C. Goodall of Leeds, and the London publishers are Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

BLUSHING.

SIR.—Can you inform me whether there is any cure for blushing? Whenever I meet any of my friends, I give a sort of start, and the blood rushes to my face. Is there any remedy for this?—I am, sir, yours truly,

A. B.

A YOUTHFUL MOTHER.

SIR.—I also can give an instance of the above; it is this. On January 13th, 1853, I delivered a girl who was on that day exactly 13 years and 3 months old. She was about six hours "in labour," had a very good time, and passed through the after-time very well; the child, a fair sized and apparently healthy one, however, died at the age of ten weeks.

A married woman, now living in this village, was with me when in attendance upon my patient. I was then living in Norfolk.—Yours very truly,

HENRY P. LEECH, M.R.C.S.E., and L.S.A. Lond.

TREATMENT OF HYDROCELE AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL INJECTION OF TINCTURE OF IODINE.

SIR.—In answer to "Ultima Thule" (JOURNAL, January 26th, p. 203), I would say this. 1. I would try iodine again (or two drachms of fluid extract of ergot left in the tunica vaginalis, which has always proved successful in my hands). 2. Of iodine, I would use one or two drachms of the strongest tincture, and allow it to remain. 3. The minimum quantity likely to succeed is not less than one drachm. 4. I have never used it heated. 5. I prefer to operate on one side at once. I should keep the patient in bed, and apply cooling lotions, if much inflammation be produced by the iodine; if ergot be used, there will probably be little or no inflammation.—I am, etc.,

GEO. A. HETHERINGTON.

St. John, New Brunswick, February 8th, 1884.

THE SHOEHORN OF HORSES.

SIR.—I have much pleasure in recommending Mr. G. S. Ryerson to read a little book called *Horses and Roads*, by "Free Lance," a reprint of a series of letters published a year or two ago, in one of the agricultural journals. In it, he will find overwhelming evidence (from practical experience; names, places, and dates specified) that the Chariot system is infinitely superior to any other; and that both tools and ready made tips are to be had from W. H. Stevens, M.R.C.V.S., 9, Park Lane, London, W.

Allow me to add, also, that he will find the line of argument pushed to its logical conclusion, viz., that horses work best without any shoes at all. I read the book myself last month, and have since worked one of my horses without shoes, and am eminently well satisfied with the result, though, of course, three weeks' trial is not long enough for a final verdict.—Yours truly,

A LOVER OF HORSES.

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF SPUTUM.

SIR.—In reply to Dr. C. P. Coombs, who wishes to know a more ready method of staining the tubercle bacilli in sputum than that commonly employed, I can recommend the following plan, which is now, I believe, often used by mycologists on account of the great saving of time and trouble effected. A thin and even film of sputum is first dried upon the cover-glass in the usual way, and then floated upon the surface of a small quantity of the magenta and aniline solution previously filtered into a watch-glass. Gentle heat is now applied by means of a spirit-lamp, until vapour rises from the liquid. The cover-glass is now removed and carefully washed in methylated spirit, until as much as possible of the stain is dissolved out, and finally dried. A drop of Farrant's solution, on a glass slide, forms a suitable mount for the specimen. The whole process need not last longer than five minutes; and it will be seen that the use of chrysoidine and nitric acid is entirely dispensed with, a gain that all must appreciate.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. T. LAW, M.D., F.R.C.S.

DANGERS OF FALSE TEETH.

SIR.—On Monday morning, about 1 A.M., I was suddenly called to a single woman, aged about 30, who had woke up out of her sleep, finding that her false teeth had slipped down into the throat. On my arrival, I found her in a considerable state of alarm, but no urgent symptoms of dyspnoea presented themselves. On my passing a probang down the gullet, I could feel some obstruction; and, on introducing the spring-hook end of the probang, succeeded, with some difficulty, in bringing up the offending body, which consisted of four incisor teeth, with gutta-percha plate attached, and a couple of sharp hooks used for securing it to other teeth. With the exception of some soreness of the throat, she recovered without a bad symptom.—I am, etc.,

J. T. P.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- A System of Obstetric Medicine and Surgery, Theoretical and Clinical, for the Student and Practitioner. By Robert Barnes, M.D., and Fancourt Barnes, M.D. Vol. I. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1884.
- A Manual of Physiology for the Use of Junior Students of Medicine. By G. F. Yeo, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1884.
- A Treatise on Chemical Constitution of the Brain. By J. L. W. Thudichum, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1884.
- A Movable Atlas, showing the Bones and Ligaments of the Human Body. By Professor G. J. Witkowski, M.D. Translated and Edited by A. T. Norton, F.R.C.S.
- The Skeleton and Its Articulations. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox.

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