

THE YELLOW PIGMENT FOUND IN THE INTESTINES IN CASES OF ARSENICAL POISONING.

SIR.—The interesting observations made by Dr. J. Campbell Brown and Mr. Edward Davies, of which an account was published in your last issue, would seem to indicate that the yellow pigment in question is impure bilirubin ($C_{12}H_{14}NO_2$). At least, this suggestion would be worth bearing in mind in any further investigation of the subject.—Yours truly,
C. T. KINGZETT.
Trevena, Amhurst Park, N., March 15th, 1884.

THE AUDIOMETER.

SIR.—In a recent number of a contemporary journal, the "audiometer" is described as having been recently exhibited as a novelty, and been in use prior to exhibition for twelve months. I wrote, mentioning that I showed and described this instrument at the Association meeting at Cork in the year 1879, and that its merits were then fully discussed by such eminent aurists as Dr. Weber-Liel of Berlin, Dr. Beard of New York, Drs. Fitzgerald and Jacob of Dublin, Dr. Pierce of Manchester, Dr. Kirk Duncanson of Edinburgh, Dr. McKeown of Belfast, and Dr. Cassells of Glasgow; the whole being very fully reported in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of August 30th, 1879.

Since the editor of the journal in question has not printed my letter, I ask, as an act of justice to a member of the Association, to allow me to note this fact in the *JOURNAL*.—I am, yours faithfully,
LENNOX BROWNE.
36, Weymouth Street, Portland Place, W., March 15th, 1884.

NEW LATIN SYNTAX.

SIR.—The following specimen of doctor's Latin occurs in a prescription of a London physician which recently appeared in a medical journal: "*Fiat injectionem, ut bis die utendum.*"

I would suggest that medical men who are ambitious of writing Latin, after they have forgotten the rules of syntax, should, for the sake of decency, adhere to the usual abbreviations.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,
MEMBER BRIT. MED. AS.

SECOND-HAND FRENCH BOOKSELLER.

DR. C. P. COOMBS asks for the address of a dealer in second-hand medical books in Paris.

* * Leclerc, Boulevard St. Germain, 104; Rey, Rue Monsieur le Prince, 12.

VIOLENT ITCHING IN AN ELDERLY GENTLEMAN.

SIR.—To my mind, one cause of the "itching" is the "brandy and water several times a day." Let him leave this off, and for the "weak heart" take occasionally a glass of cold soup, made of Liebig's extract, or a tumbler of milk-gruel, and observe the result. Alcohol in any shape determines blood to the skin; and, when there is a tendency to irritation, the less blood sent to the surface the better. An aloeotic purge occasionally would be useful in this case.—I am, etc.,
Upper Norwood, March 15th, 1884. GEORGE K. POOLE, Surgeon-Major.

CLIMATE OF AUSTRALIA.

DR. J. WARD wishes to learn whether the climate of Australia is suitable for a person suffering from rheumatism, and whether preference is to be given to Melbourne, Adelaide, or Sydney.

GAS-FIREPLACES.

W. R. E. C. writes: Replying to inquiry of "*Ne Quid Nimis*," the gas-fireplaces are shown by the official report of the Smoke Abatement Committee, page 105, to be superior in heating efficiency to gas-stoves. No smell of burnt gas is to be perceived in the room, as the gas-fireplaces are fitted with a hood and pipe which convey the products of combustion up the chimney, in front of which the fire-place stands.

My experience is that, with plenty of gas, a good heat can be got, but costly as compared with a coal fire. Unless a good draught up the chimney be maintained, there will be unpleasant smells and injurious effluvia.—I am, etc.,
K.

SIR.—I beg to inform "*Ne Quid Nimis*" that I have had one of Fletcher's gas-fires in use through the winter in the surgery, and am very much pleased with it. It is instantly red-hot, radiates more heat than the old coal-fire did, and does not give off the slightest odour in the room.

I enclose my address, and shall be glad to give "*Ne Quid Nimis*" any further particulars.—I am, etc.,
T. H. W.

P.S.—I may mention that, when choosing it, I saw several others in action, but none were by any means equal to Fletcher's.

THE TREATMENT OF ABORTION.

SIR.—I have read the letter of "*A Member*," on the above subject, with some interest, and not without some sympathy for the difficulty he has experienced in the treatment of abortions during the early months of pregnancy. An usual recommendation in books is to introduce the forefinger of the right hand, and sweep out the placenta, making sure that it is wholly cleared out. Now, this is much easier said than done; and I must say that I have usually found it impossible to sweep out the placenta in this or, indeed, any other way until it has become detached from the uterus and is actually in process of being expelled by uterine contraction. To attempt it before is, in my experience, not only useless, but likely to prove dangerous.

I have for some years resorted to the practice of letting the placenta alone, if it do not immediately follow the expulsion of the embryo or fetus, which it rarely does. I introduce two sponges to prevent hæmorrhage, one applied to the os, and another (a large one) in the vagina, to keep the first in position. I enjoin perfect rest, and give repeated doses of liquid extract of ergot; the sponges are changed daily, and the vagina is washed out with warm water and Condy's fluid. I find that within two days, as a general thing, the placenta has become detached and can be extracted with ease. Rest, with ergot and bromide of potassium for a few days, followed by tonics, bring the case, I should say almost invariably, to a favourable termination. The dangers of delay are the absorption of putrid matter from decomposing placenta, but this is not likely to happen to any extent within three days, and hæmorrhage due to the separation of the placenta, is not to be viewed with alarm within certain limits. I have found the sponges, introduced in the way I have mentioned, very effectual in preventing hæmorrhage, and after their introduction I leave the case for some hours with the utmost confidence.

Another useful method, and one to which I shall resort more frequently in future, is to introduce a compressed sponge-tent into the os; this not only checks hæmorrhage, but also aids in dilating the os.—I am, etc.,
316, Kennington Park Road, S.E. JNO. CAMERON, L.R.C.P. Lond.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Atlas of Female Pelvic Anatomy. By D. Berry Hart, M.D. Edinburgh: W. and A. K. Johnston.
Aids to Obstetrics. Double Part. By Samuel Nall, B.A., M.B. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox.
Aids to Botany. Double Part. By Armand Semple, B.A., M.B. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1883.
The Gold-Headed Cane. By W. Munk, M.A., F.S.A. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1884.
A Treatise on Bright's Disease of the Kidney. By H. B. Millard, M.D., A.M. New York: Wood and Co. 1884.

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