

EDUCATIONAL OVERPRESSURE.

SIR,—I think it must be confessed that the Education Act of 1870 has been one of the most practical and useful measures ever introduced into this country. If it has been costly, it has been thoroughly efficient and uniform. Can such good results, in so short a time, be pointed out as the result of any other recent Act of Parliament? Do you not think that far greater and more satisfactory results would have accrued if provision for a thorough and efficient system of inspection had been made in the Public Health Acts, and, indeed, many other statutes affecting the medical profession?

I am led to make these remarks as the result of reading your leader in the JOURNAL of April 12th, as in it you seem to infer that the teachers would do their work better without the inspectorial system provided for in the Act. Should this be your meaning, I am quite at issue with you on that point. I think Her Majesty's inspectors are quite as interested in having the rules of the new code so modified as to protect delicate and dull children, and prevent them from being overworked, as are the parents, teachers, or the members of our own profession. I scarcely think that too much can be said in favour of Government inspection; and the uncare for condition of many of our crowded towns and country villages is sad evidence of local inability to deal uniformly or fairly with grave questions involving the happiness, prosperity, and progress of the general community.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, J. O.

SIR,—Your admirable article in the JOURNAL of April 12th on overpressure in elementary schools appears exhaustive as far as our present knowledge of brain-forging is concerned. There is, however, another condition in elementary schools, perhaps quite as important, which has not, I believe, been as yet mentioned in any of the published documents. I allude to inefficient ventilation. During the visit of inspectors, the schoolroom windows are generally open; at other times, they are generally closed. Taking the figures quoted by the Bradford School-Board as correct, of the 6,734 children who died from hydrocephalus under five years of age, as much may be attributed to the breathing of vitiated air as to educational overpressure.

This is a subject which peculiarly demands the attention of medical men. Bad ventilation in schoolrooms is certainly one of the "disturbing causes" which has depressed the nervous vitality of our children, and prevented the death-rate attributable to brain-disease from diminishing as other diseases among children appear to have done during the years 1876-80.

Anyone who will spend an hour in an ordinary elementary school with the windows closed will realise the depressing nervous influence to which I have alluded. Teachers and taught are affected, but especially the latter, who are crowded together in little groups. If medical men, in their several districts, were to investigate this subject, one of the "disturbing causes" would be soon removed.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, HENRY LEE, 9, Savile Row, W.

PRELIMINARY EDUCATION.

SIR,—I think the letter of "W. S." on the above subject deserves investigation. There is evidently a misunderstanding between examiners and teachers, or an attempt by the examiners to drive candidates to the professional crammers. It is truly hard that, after we have sent our boys to the first schools in England, and they have been reported diligent there, we should have them plucked by such a court of examiners. Could we not obtain some investigation into the subject? The object of the examination should be kept in mind, to prove that candidates have received a sound preliminary education, not to foster any special views of a few individuals.—I am, etc.,

A FATHER OF THREE BOYS AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

CANCER MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE following table, giving the mortality from cancer in England and Wales during the three decennials, is interesting and instructive in connection with the discussion on the subject at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, on Tuesday, April 22nd. The figures of the first two decennials are derived from the decennial reports of the Registrar-General, and those in the last from the proofs placed at my disposal from the Registrar-General's office. The increase in the mortality is due to other than accidental causes, and I hope to discuss the subject with mortality from all other causes before the ensuing Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association.

Ages.	1851-60.	1861-70.	1871-80.
All ages	314	383	473
Under five years	22	13	12
Five to nine years	9	7	7
Ten to fourteen years	8	8	7
Fifteen to nineteen years	17	18	16
Twenty to twenty-four years	28	30	27
Twenty-five to thirty-four years	102	112	125
Thirty-five to forty-four years	383	439	529
Forty-five to fifty-four years	854	1038	1263
Fifty-five to sixty-four years	1392	1754	2214
Sixty-five to seventy-four years	1927	2343	3119
Seventy-five and upwards	2051	2543	3342

The table gives the average annual mortality from cancer at the given ages to one million persons living of those ages in England and Wales.

MONTAGUE D. MAKUNA, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.

IN our report of Mr. Harrison Cripps' remarks on this subject at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, which appeared in the JOURNAL of April 26th, there is a misprint of so evident a character that it can hardly have led to misapprehension. The number of deaths from cancer, and from all causes, ought to have been 81,000 and 2,300,000.

STEPHANOTIS and W. J. S.—Holden's *Osteology*, Gray's *Anatomy*, Kirkes', Hermann's, or Power's *Physiology*, will suit your purpose. A student can very profitably study osteology in his own home before joining a medical school, provided he has a set of bones; but to attempt to learn the muscles, arteries, etc., before commencing dissections is worse than useless.

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

Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. W. H. Owen, Liverpool; Dr. Arthur Kempe, Exeter; The Secretary of the Chelsea Hospital for Women; Mr. Herbert C. Dent, Woolwich; An Irish Member; Mr. R. W. Jenkins, London; Mr. J. Brown, Bacup; Mr. Oswald A. Browne, London; Mr. H. S. Trower, London; Mr. A. E. Snook, Dulwich; Dr. Shirley Deakin, Allahabad; Mr. B. J. Vernon, London; Dr. Stark, Wantage; Dr. E. Gordon Hull, Withern, Alford; Mr. Walter Buchanan, Chatham; Mr. J. R. Somers Vine, London; Dr. W. Allan Jamieson, Edinburgh; Mr. J. A. Shaw Stewart, London; Mr. John Toplis, Chesterfield; Dr. Robert Bowles, Folkestone; Mr. James West, London; Dr. C. S. Grant, Ouchy, Switzerland; Dr. Mackay, Brighton; Mr. H. Codd, Leamington; Messrs. Welford and Sons, London; Mr. George Meadows, Hastings; Mr. Clement Walter, Dover; Mr. Talfourd Ely, London; Mr. H. S. Reynolds, Castle Donington; Mr. W. A. Elliston, Ipswich; Mr. J. Goodwin Shea, Chesterfield; Dr. Walter Gripper, Wallington; Mr. H. A. Collins, Saxmundham; Dr. Thin, London; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Mr. J. Brown, Bacup; Dr. C. Bell Taylor, Nottingham; Dr. Macdonald, Liverpool; Mr. Shirley F. Murphy, London; Mr. A. H. Barrett, Aberdeen; Mr. R. M. Bruce, Houghton; Mr. J. W. Honeyman, London; The Honorary Secretaries of the Aberdeen University Club; Mr. G. Williamson, Durham; Mr. W. Lamond, Jarrow-on-Tyne; Mr. C. Clark Burman, Belford; Mr. F. Stockwell, London; Mr. T. H. Smith, Edinburgh; The Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons; Dr. Lee, London; Mr. W. H. Anderson, Harleston; L.R.C.P.; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Messrs. A. and F. Pears, Isleworth; Mr. W. Eassie, London; Dr. L. W. Marshall, Nottingham; Dr. James Adams, West Malling; Dr. Thomas Jones, Calcutta; Dr. Crichton Browne, London; Dr. Wm. Hickman, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. C. J. Wright, Leeds; Dr. Myers, London; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Mr. J. T. J. Morison, Plumstead; Dr. Ewart, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Professor Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. M. Mackenzie, London; Messrs. Bermingham and Co., London; Messrs. H. C. King, London; Mr. J. F. Pink, London; Mr. James Woolley, London; Mr. Mark H. Judge, London; Mr. J. Loane, London; Dr. Robertson, Buxton; Mr. J. D. McCaw, Portlengone; Messrs. Jeffrey and Co., London; Dr. Collier, Hastings; Mr. C. J. Bond, Leicester; Messrs. Booth and Fox, London; Dr. E. Creswell Baber, Brighton; Mr. Nelson A. Dobson, Clifton; Dr. Suckling, Birmingham; Mr. Alex. Cook, Cannock; Mr. J. Grant, West Bolden, Durham; Mr. F. H. Appleby, Newark-upon-Trent; Mr. Roger Williams, London; Mr. William Wallace, Glasgow; Mr. P. B. Handyside, Drem; Mr. A. Scott Myrtle, Harrogate; Mr. M. G. Biggs, London; Mr. Alex. Wheeler, Darlington; Mr. Wilson Eager, Melton, Woodbridge; Mr. T. A. Cox, Wisbech; Mr. James Lattey, London; Dr. A. E. Sansom, London; Dr. Philpot, Croydon; Mr. Edward Swales, Sheerness; Mr. C. Thimm, London; Mr. James Hughes, Middlewick; Mr. J. H. Raffety, London; Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; Dr. Carter, Liverpool; Mr. C. H. Taylor, Bradford; Dr. Langmore, London; Dr. Withers Moore, Brighton; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. W. P. Warren, Hereford; Mr. Vacher, Birkenhead; The Secretary of the North of England Branch; Mr. John Walcott, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Messrs. H. and J. Cooper, London; Mr. G. W. Swalby, London; Dr. Taaffe, Brighton; The Right Hon. Sir Charles Dilke, London; Messrs. H. W. Carter and Co., Bristol; Mr. G. T. Harrison, Leicester; Mr. G. A. Kenyon, Chester; Mr. Arthur Jackson, Sheffield; Our Birmingham Correspondent; The Secretary of the General Post Office; The Secretary of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest; Mr. R. Oakley, London; Professor Hamilton, Aberdeen; Our Belfast Correspondent; Dr. Drage, Hatfield; Mr. G. W. Whiteley, Rickmansworth; Mr. Henry Barrett, Aberdeen; Mr. Herbert L. Snow, London; Mr. Latimer Lemarchant, London, etc.

BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

The Elements of Physiological and Pathological Chemistry. By T. Cranstoun Charles, M.D. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1884.

Nineteen Centuries of Drink in England. By Richard Valpy French. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1884.

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