

J. R. S.—The special point on which our opinion is sought by "J. R. S." is, strictly speaking, neither medico-legal nor medico-ethical, but one of common law; and our correspondent will do well to submit it to his solicitor, together with a copy of the contract he entered into with the local practitioner, his present master.

ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

SIR.—Would you allow me to apologise to those gentlemen whose letters were accidentally returned by the porter, and to ask them if they would kindly communicate with me again?—Yours faithfully,

JAMES ROCHÉD FORREST, Honorary Secretary.
3, New Inn, London, W.C., May 13th, 1884.

ARTIFICIAL TYMPANA.

SIR.—In addition to the papers referring to the different forms of artificial tympana to be consulted in Section 1798 of the *Medical Digest*, very instructive papers appeared in the *JOURNAL*, by Drs. Pierce and Barr, October, 1883, pp. 720-722; and in the *Lancet*, by Mr. Dalby, January, 1884, p. 102; also in the *Medical Times and Gazette*, June, 1879, p. 558, where Dr. B. W. Richardson describes a golden tympanum.—Obediently yours, RICHARD NEALE, M.D. Lond.

60, Boundary Road, South Hampstead, N.W.

MILK.

SIR.—At an interesting lecture on milk, given at the Parkes Museum on April 24th, Dr. Poore of University College, in the course of the discussion, made some valuable remarks regarding feeding-bottles, and drew attention to the sour, unwholesome condition into which they were frequently allowed to fall. Severe as his strictures were, I do not think he mentioned the whole case against them. Why has the old-fashioned elongated feeding-bottle, on the end of which an ordinary nipple was placed, gone out of use?

Some time ago, I investigated the various feeding-bottles in order to obtain the best. I adopted this one without hesitation, and it has given every satisfaction. I employed, however, for closing the large opening, a solid India-rubber cork, having a triangular piece cut out of the side vertically. By forcing this cork more or less into the bottle; it is easily possible to regulate the supply of air, or even to close the bottle entirely. At the right time, the food made very hot, placed in the bottle, and rolled up in flannel, will keep warm all night, and save a deal of trouble now spent in warming the food in the night time. Every part of this bottle is easily washed, and if not clean, the dirt can be seen. It is also cheaper than the ordinary bottles; but it appears to me that it is not liked, because it must be held when a child is being fed, and, unfortunately, many people are too lazy to do this, and they care not how much wind an infant sucks in with the new-fashioned bottles, provided only they can leave the child "to take care of itself."

I have hesitated to bring this question of feeding-bottles up publicly, for it is beyond my province as an agricultural chemist, but I am pleased Dr. Poore has drawn attention to it, and I hope, for the public good, it will not be allowed to drop.

There is, however, another question which medical men might, perhaps, keep in mind in the performance of their duties, and which, indirectly, is of great interest to me, and also to the agricultural community, apart from its importance to the general public. Does the use of condensed milk excite skin-disease in children? So far as my limited, and non-professional observation goes, I would give an answer in the affirmative. I may be wrong, but if so, am sure you will give those who have had special opportunities of judging, the means of correcting me.—I am, sir, yours etc., FREDK. JAS. LLOYD, F.C.S.

4, Lombard Court, E.C., April 25th, 1884.

THE ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

SIR.—I think it would be a very desirable thing, and one which would be acceptable to many parties who are personally concerned, if the word "Benevolent" were altogether expunged from the title of that most excellent institution. It cannot be a pleasant thing for young gentlemen, the sons of gentlemen, to hail from a "Benevolent" school; and it can hardly be denied that it would be detrimental to any of them who are able, after leaving school, to proceed to one or other of the universities. To parents also, and to the sisters and friends of those young gentlemen, it cannot be otherwise than distasteful that their relative is at a benevolent institution. I know perfectly well that this is only a false pride; but still it is human nature, and is likely to continue so, at any rate for the present. I believe there are many medical men who would be glad to send their sons to "Epsom school" if they were not for the charitable element; but it is that, and that only, which deters them from doing so. Such is my own case, and I have no doubt that one would not have far to seek before meeting with plenty more. The authorities of Epsom school lay themselves out to receive as pupils the sons of those who are not medical men, who pay on a somewhat higher scale. Is it not probable that many more would avail themselves of this excellent school, except for the name? There is no reason that I can conceive why Epsom should not in time rank with Clifton, Marlborough, Christ's Hospital, or any other of the leading public schools; but never, so long as it is handicapped with the word Benevolent. Many men who would send their sons to Epsom school would be horrified at the idea of the Medical Benevolent College. My own wish would be that the school should be called simply Epsom School, and the college for pensioners Epsom College, or, if it be preferable, Royal Epsom College; and I would venture to assert that there is scarcely a medical man in the three kingdoms, not even passing over the colonies, but would know perfectly well the nature and purposes of those institutions. If this letter will have no further effect than to ventilate the subject, I shall feel that it has not been written in vain.—I am, sir, yours etc.,

HENRY F. WINSLOW, M.D.

METHODS OF RESTORING THE APPARENTLY DROWNED.

SIR.—Whatever method is recommended to restore breathing, I think it should be preceded by instructions how, first, to get all the water possible out of the lungs and stomach. For many years I have advised turning the patient on his face, with the wrists crossed over the upper part of the sternum; then, standing astride him, to pass the hands beneath until the tips of the fingers meet over the stomach and lower ribs, and lift him by the hands in this position as high as necessary for the water to run and be pressed out. Assistants can, at the same time, clear the mouth and nostrils.—I am, etc., E. S.

C. E. W.—The query is, we think, a little too wide for the scope of a medical journal.

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BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Hiatological Notes for the Use of Medical Students. By W. H. Waters, M.A. Manchester: J. Cornish, London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1884.

Lectures on Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. By Charles West, M.D. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1884.

The Student's Guide to Systematic Botany. By Robert Bentley, F.L.S., M.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill.

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