

## RESULT OR COINCIDENCE?

SIR,—I wish to know if the following somewhat desirable result of treatment has been observed in other cases where syrupus ferri et quiniæ hydrobromas cum strychnia (Fletcher) has been prescribed.

Mr. J. H., aged 50, suffering from dyspepsia, loss of appetite, and the symptoms frequently observed in subjects who are often on the verge of delirium tremens, came to me on April 27th last, and asked for some tonic medicine. He said the loss of appetite for food was what he chiefly complained of, and that he felt in a very weak state, a short walk or any slight exertion making him feel tired and (to use his own words) "good for nothing." I prescribed the above medicine in drachm doses, three times a day.

Now comes the unlooked-for result. He had been an habitual smoker of the strongest black tobacco, but since taking the syrup has felt no desire whatever to smoke, and attributes it entirely to the medicine. This case of course is hardly a fair one to judge by, being only a short time under treatment.

It would, however, be very interesting to ascertain if this effect (if it be one) has been noticed in other similar cases.—I remain, yours truly,  
COOLE ABBEY, FERMOY, IRELAND. HENRY W. PEARD, M.B.

## CHLOROFORM NARCOSIS DURING SLEEP.

SIR,—It is probable that the house-surgeons of hospitals would be able to give a good deal of information on this subject. While acting in that capacity at the Surgical Hospital, Stockton-on-Tees, I have on several occasions induced chloroform narcosis without awakening the patient. I never tried it on adults, as my object was to avoid the struggling and crying usual in children when chloroform is given. I have only distinct recollections of three cases which occurred last year, and as I only did it as a matter of convenience, I should not be surprised if some unsuccessful cases have escaped my memory.

In one case a child, about eight years old, suffering from very extensive burns, I twice chloroformed during sleep previously to dressing the burns.

Case 2 was a child of about four years, in whom I produced anaesthesia previously to lithotomy.

In case 3, where the leg had been amputated at the hip-joint, I administered chloroform before the first dressing without awaking the child, aged 8, who was of an exceedingly nervous disposition. The chloroform was in each case given very gradually, and on a towel. There are two or three remarks to be made on these cases, four in all. 1. The patients were all children. 2. They were all, more or less, out of health, but, on the other hand, from the nature of the ailment, they were none of them sound sleepers, and the anaesthetic was given during daylight, in a large ward. With regard to the time occupied, I do not think that more than ten minutes was required to produce anaesthesia; indeed, I believe it was probably less, but then the subjects were children, and more or less debilitated. I have once or twice given chloroform to an adult previously to an operation who was insensible from shock caused by injury; but this hardly bears on the question, and I quite think that it would probably be found much more easy of accomplishment in the young than in adults.—I am, etc.,  
E. GORDON-HULL, M.D. Dubl. Withern, Lincolnshire.

RUS should apply to one of the medical agents for the information he requires. We cannot answer the question.

## THE UNION OF WOUNDS AND FRACTURES IN OLD PERSONS.

SIR,—Having seen a letter from Professor Humphry in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of the 17th instant, in which he states he is anxious to obtain evidence relative to the "union of wounds from operations or otherwise inflicted," on old persons, probably the following case may be of interest to him.

John Carroll, aged 91, residing in Collooney, fell out of his bed, one night last June, on the edge of a Dutch oven, and received a very serious wound, over four inches long, on the left side of his head. I saw him two hours after the accident in a very weak state from shock and loss of blood. The wound was gaping in its entire extent, the bone stripped of the periosteum, and slightly depressed at one point about the centre of the wound. I drew the edges of the wound together, put on a compress saturated with "Friar's Balsam," and placed a tight bandage over all. On the fourth day the wound looked healthy, healing by granulation, and was dressed with carbolic oil. On the eighth day the old man was "himself again," and able to go out. He gave me a most graphic account of how he saw a gentleman in the yeomanry-service shot down by the French in 1798 at a place some miles distant from this village, and how the "poor young gentleman's" father was "tuck" prisoner by the "furners" when trying to rescue his darlin' son. My old patient was then six years old, and was being carried on his mother's back to an inland village for safety, when they came on the scene. I may mention that three years ago the old man met with some very rough treatment in a fight after a fair, and I then dressed a very nasty scalp-wound for him, the result of a blow from a "blackthorn." The old man is still alive, but suffering from senile dementia.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
JOHN MOLONY, Surgeon and Physician.

Collooney, Co. Sligo, May 19th, 1884.

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- On Various Modes of Testing for Albumen and Sugar in the Urine. By G. Johnson, M.D. London: Smith, Elder, 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. 1884.  
Regional Surgery, Including Surgical Diagnosis; A Manual for the Use of Students. Part II.—The Upper Extremity and Thorax. By F. A. Southam, M.A. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1884.  
Addresses and Exercises at the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Foundation of the Medical School of Harvard University, October 17th, 1883. Cambridge: J. Wilson and Son, University Press. 1884.  
Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London. Vol. xxv. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1884.  
The Charities Register and Digest. Second Edition. With Introduction, by C. S. Loch. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1884.  
Transactions of the Epidemiological Society of London. New Series. Vol. II. Session 1882-83. London: David Bogue. 1884.  
Manual of the Diseases of the Ear. By T. Barr, M.D. Glasgow: J. Maclehoose and Sons. 1884.  
The Leamington Waters. By F. W. Smith, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1884.  
Materia Medica and Therapeutics; An Introduction to the Rational Treatment of Disease. By J. Mitchell Bruce, M.A., M.D. London, Paris, and New York: Cassell and Co. 1884.  
A Treatise on Surgery, its Principles and Practice. By T. Holmes, M.A. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1884.

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