

## ANNUAL MEETING.

SIR,—I wish to call attention to the fact that for some years back one of the principal objects of our annual gatherings has been to afford an opportunity to some of the leading members of the profession to hold forth on one or other of their favourite hobbies. A discussion is invited, and the names of a certain number of writers and teachers, all experts, are published, as likely to take part in the debate; whole days are occupied in this palaver, about which the busy practitioner knows little and cares less. Hundreds of associates who have come to read or hear some practical paper on matters of great interest to them and importance to their clients, wait till the time shall arrive for their cases to be called, but they wait in vain; now I would ask, is the object for which our Association exists fulfilled by this line of action? I think not; such large and highly scientific questions as those brought before us last year—aphasia and arterial tension—are not fit and proper matters to introduce at our sectional meetings, however suitable they may be, and are, to lay before the meetings of our truly learned societies; theirs are the halls where the voice of science should be heard. I put it to the members of Council as well as the general body, whether this is the case or not—not only are the short useful papers, which have been prepared for the section, passed over, but when consigned to the secretary with, I suppose, a view to their publication in the JOURNAL, they are never more heard of. All the space in the JOURNAL is required for addresses, lectures, and discussions—some of them of little value.

The second point I shall mention is the presidential addresses; why each president of a section should find it necessary to lecture his fellow associates in the way he does, and at the length he does, is incomprehensible. Besides, the addresses are all printed long before they are read at the meeting, and copies of them might be as easily furnished to each member, as to the president, and he could read it at his leisure.

The last point is, that the presidents of sections should rigorously enforce the rule which limits the time which each paper and each speaker shall be allowed to occupy. I see no use in having rules unless they are adhered to. Now, what happens? One of our eminent physicians or surgeons reads a paper which should terminate in twenty minutes, but on he goes for half an hour or three quarters; then follows an equally eminent speaker, he should be allowed ten minutes, but that would never do, so on he goes for twice or thrice as long, telling men, often as experienced as himself, what they have known and practised for ages—after this, one of the smaller brethren's paper comes on, and the secretary of the section very politely says to him, "Dr. or Mr. —, our time is very limited; I hope your paper won't take long."—Yours, etc., Harrogate. A. S. MYRTLE, M.D.

A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (Portsmouth).—The circular you forward is based upon the clauses of the Portsmouth Corporation Act of 1883—a local Act, promoted by the Corporation of Portsmouth, which received the Royal assent last year. It has all the force of Statute Law within the Borough, and clothes the Town Council with the powers which they are now exercising.

## PLEAS.

In reply to "Scratch's" enquiries in the JOURNAL of May 17th, Dr. Cordes, of Geneva, recommends decoction of quassia as a lotion. It is odourless and not irritating. For horses, at least, it has proved very successful.—I. O. advises "Scratch" to try tincture of pyrethrum, either alone or with a little glycerine, this preparation allays the irritation, and acts as a parasiticide.—Dr. M. D. O'Connell has found, in the course of forty-three years of workhouse practice, that a free sprinkling of liquor ammoniac fortior over the clothes is very efficacious when the practitioner has just come from a place where the vermin abound. Carbonate of ammonia carried in the pocket is a good preventive.

## CHLOROFORM AND ETHER.

ALFRED CLARKE.—Chloroform usually produces anaesthesia more rapidly than ether, particularly when no special apparatus is employed, or when the anaesthetic is given by a person not very experienced in the use of either of these compounds. Of course we refer to rapidity of action alone. There remains the highly important question of relative safety.

F. C. W.—Any respectable physician is competent to treat the symptoms described, to which an exaggerated importance is obviously attached by our correspondent.

## EXAMINATIONS IN SANITARY SCIENCE.

A CANDIDATE asks what text-books are necessary to be read for the examination for the certificate in "sanitary science of any colleges" (the King and Queen's College of Physicians, for example), and would also be glad to know if any book is published which embraces all five subjects of the examination. He would further like to know where he could get instruction in the reading of engineer's plans, sections, and scales.

## EDUCATION OF DAUGHTERS OF MEDICAL MEN.

SIR,—The wife of a medical man (who, through chronic illness, is unable to follow his profession) is anxious to know if there be any good schools for daughters of medical men, where they get in by vote and receive their education free; or for the daughters of professional men generally. Any information on the above will be thankfully received by M. F. H.

## NUMBNESS OF THE FINGERS.

SIR,—Will any of your readers kindly give an opinion on the following case? I have been, for the last two years, more or less troubled with numbness of the fingers of one or both hands, coming on almost every morning, after having had a good night, during my second sleep and not at any other time.

I believe I am in perfect health, in every respect, having nothing whatever else to trouble me, except a slight sensation, not amounting to pain or tenderness, on the right side of the neck, in the situation of the cervical plexus.

Having tried a variety of internal remedies without effect, I shall feel thankful for an opinion as to the cause, as well as the best means of getting rid of this unpleasant affection.—Yours truly, ENQUIRER.

## PRACTICE IN THE COLONIES.

SIR,—In reply to the enquiry of "Colony" in the JOURNAL of May 24th, I beg to recommend Hardwicke's *Medical Education and Practice in all Parts of the World*, for information respecting means of practice in Australia and New Zealand.—Yours truly, MEDICUS.

THOMAS BELL.—The correspondence of only one side is given, and we are adverse to passing judgment except after the facts are argued by both parties.

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

Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. J. Fletcher Little, Ben Rhydding; Dr. H. Campbell Pope, London; Our Belfast Correspondent; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Mr. C. M. Jessop, London; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Mr. F. Vacher, Birkenhead; Mr. T. Murray Robertson, Darlington, Durham; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. Styrax, Shrewsbury; Dr. Lees, London; Dr. T. F. Pearce, Haslemere; Dr. Packer, Shrewsbury; Dr. Buchanan, Chatham; Mr. Arthur Cooper, London; Dr. L. Phillips, Birmingham; Mr. J. C. Andrew, Manchester; Mr. A. Teevan, London; Dr. E. F. Vardon, Sorrento; Mr. David H. Hadden, Dublin; Mr. Thomas W. Crosse, Norwich; Mr. James McLintock, Marsden; Mr. J. Lloyd Roberts, Denbigh; Dr. Cameron, Dublin; Dr. Poore, London; Mr. J. L. Bushford, Berlin; Dr. R. Wade Savage, London; Mr. J. W. Fry, Waterbury; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Mr. Reginald Harrison, Liverpool; Mr. Joseph Smith, Rickmansworth; Mr. E. E. Muriel, Norwich; Dr. F. Simms, London; Dr. G. C. Millar, London; Mr. John Marshall, Dover; Mr. A. D. Stewart, Greenock; Dr. Hack Tukey, London; Dr. Waters, Chester; Dr. W. T. Mullally, Gowran, co. Kilkenny; Mr. J. F. Herring, Builth, South Wales; Dr. F. de Havilland Hall, London; The Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee; Mr. E. Trimmer, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. J. C. Grinling, Burton-on-Trent; Dr. Samuel West, London; Mr. J. Gibson, West Vale, near Halifax; Dr. Graham, Holmwood, Weybridge; Mr. Paul Swain, Plymouth; Mr. Horace Swower, Luton; Dr. Willoughby, London; The Secretary of St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin; Mr. M. G. Biggs, London; Mr. Alex. Cook, Cannock; Dr. G. B. Fowler, New York; M.D.; Dr. H. Sauer, Kimberley, South Africa; The Secretary of the Hospitals Association, London; Dr. C. J. Hare, London; Mr. C. T. Kingzett, London; Mr. J. Moulding, Liverpool; Mr. W. Ruck, London; Mr. J. W. Mason, Hull; Cato; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. George Rendle, London; Mr. W. J. Beatty, Stockton-on-Tees; Dr. S. R. Macphail, Carlisle; Mr. F. W. Porter, London; Mr. F. C. White, Bath; Justitia; Mr. Mellin, London; Dr. R. E. Carrington, London; Mr. R. Jennings, Bruton; Mr. W. J. Robins, Chesterfield; Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son, London; Dr. T. More Madden, Dublin; Dr. Funnell, Madras; Mr. Thomas Bell, Uppingham; Mr. T. W. C. Jones, London; Dr. Ireland, Prestonpans; The Secretary of the National Dental Hospital; Dr. M. D. O'Connell, Kilmallock; The Secretary of the Local Government Board; Mr. W. H. Bennett, Omagh; Dr. John Thompson, Bideford; Mr. M. Hoff, London; Mr. Warwick C. Steele, Ealing; Mr. H. J. Hibberd, Ipswich; Dr. MacDowel 'Cosgrave, Dublin; Dr. W. H. Tayler, London; Mr. G. F. J. Worthington, Sidcup; Mr. Forster, Darlington; Mr. F. H. Weekes, York; Mr. Wyndham Dunstan, London; Dr. A. D. Macdonald, Liverpool; Dr. Rundle, Southsea; Mr. H. P. Potter, London; Dr. Cordes, Geneva; Our Paris Correspondent; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. R. J. W. Orton, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Mr. N. W. Allt, London; Mrs. E. A. Williams, Manchester; Mr. H. Hemsted, Whitechurch; Mr. James Wagstaff, London; Dr. Alfred Tucker Wise, London, etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Surgical Emergencies. By Dr. L. Von Lesser. Translated and Revised by F. A. Lyons, A.M., M.D. London and New York: Birmingham and Co. 1883.  
The Hip and Its Diseases. By F. P. Gibney, A.M., M.D. London and New York: Birmingham and Co. 1883.  
A Manual of Medical Jurisprudence. By A. M. L. Hamilton, M.D. London and New York: Birmingham and Co. 1883.  
Excessive Venery, Masturbation, and Continence. By J. W. Howe, M.D. London and New York: Birmingham and Co. 1883.  
Manual of Pathological Anatomy. By Cornil and Ranvier. Second Edition! Re-Edited, Enlarged and Translated, with approval of the Authors, by A. M. Hart. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1884.  
Eczema and Its Management; A Practical Treatise, Based on the Study of Three Thousand Cases of the Disease. By L. Duncan Bulkley. London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, and J. and A. Churchill. 1884.  
The Treatment of Backward Displacements of the Uterus and of Prolapsus Uteri, by the New Method of Shortening the Round Ligaments. By W. Alexander, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1884.

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