

CROTON-OIL AND CHLOROFORM IN TENIA.

SIR,—I see, in the December number of the *Midland Medical Miscellany and Provincial Medical Journal*, that Dr. Bernard Persh, of the United States Army, is in the habit of prescribing, in obstinate cases of tapeworm, when the usual doses of male fern, etc., have failed, the following remedy, which he states is most efficacious, namely, he suspends one drop of croton-oil and a drachm of chloroform in an ounce of glycerine—this to constitute a dose.

The dose is given in the early morning, no preparatory treatment being required, except half an ounce of rochele salt on the preceding evening. He states he omitted the saline purgative on many occasions, without interfering with the cure. Would any brother practitioner kindly say if he has been equally successful with the above remedy; and if a drachm of chloroform may be safely administered, in the manner described, with impunity? The dose, to myself, seems a large one; but, having a case in which all the usual remedies have failed to effect a happy result, I am anxious to try the new remedy.—I am, sir, yours very truly,

A. B. GREAT-REX, M.D.

Lawton Villa.

*. The doses of all the remedies included in this prescription seem to be quite large enough. Chloroform, however, is given, in the United States, in much fuller doses than those in which it is commonly prescribed in Great Britain. In one of our best posological tables the dose is set down as from one to ten minims, but much larger doses than a drachm have been administered, without ill effects. Of glycerine, too, the dose is usually stated to be from one to two drachms.

GERMAN.

SIR,—I am anxious to learn German by self-teaching. I would feel grateful to any member who would kindly recommend the best and quickest method, and also the books recommended.—I am, etc.,

MEMBER.

*. Although the German language is exceedingly difficult to write correctly, it can be learned for purely literary purposes with comparative facility; and, as a large number of simple words in common use are very similar in English and German, it is not difficult for the Briton to make himself understood, even in remote parts of Germany. The best grammar is that of Otto, where the more difficult rules of syntax are very clearly explained; it contains exercises. Grimm's *Mährchen*, or Popular Fairy Tales, are perhaps the easiest specimens of good literary composition for the beginner. The medical tyro in German should procure a copy of Hyrtl's *Lehrbuch der Anatomie* (Vienna; Braumüller, publisher), and translate passages, with the assistance of Dr. Fancourt Barnes's *German-English Dictionary of Medical Words* (Smith and Elder). Most of the German classics are somewhat difficult; and, although the German daily papers are as a rule highly respectable, they are written in a style unsuitable for the beginner.

BRITISH MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in informing you that a vote of thanks for the services you have rendered to the Fund was unanimously passed at the annual meeting of subscribers.—I am, sir, faithfully yours,

18, Clifton Gardens, W.

EDWARD EAST, Honorary Secretary.

FOOTBALL: ITS REGULATION AND ABOLITION.

SIR,—In your issue of January 10th, you comment upon the fact that the committee on athletics at Harvard University, U.S., have passed a resolution to request the Faculty to put down football at that place; and then proceed to classify that game with bull-baiting, cock-fighting, etc. I quite agree with you that American football does deserve to rank with these other so-called sports, for the game as at present played there resembles closely that formerly played in the old English villages and country districts before the days of the Rugby Union.

It is essentially different from the game as at present played in this country, and which does not seem to me, I must say, so brutal or rough in its nature as you think. Accidents, of course, do happen, but not more so than in hunting, bicycling, or any other sport. Nearly all the worst accidents happen in games played under the Association rules, and I will grant that the "charging" in that game is dangerous; but with regard to the game under Rugby Union rules, as, for instance, in the annual international match between England and Scotland, I think few finer displays of true athletic power and grace are to be seen anywhere. I do not see where the rules could be amended, nor, indeed, where they want amending; and, finally, I decidedly consider the game "worth the candle."—I am, sir, yours truly,

EWEN GRANT.

15, Pall Mall.

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BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Robert Boyle. A Biographical Sketch. By Lawrence Saunders. London: Gilbert, Wood, and Co. 1885.
The Training of the Instincts of Love. By F. B. Money-Coutts. With a Preface by the Rev. E. Tring, M.D. London: Kegan Paul and Co.
On Acne, Acne Rosacea, Lichen, and Prurigo. By Tom Robinson, M.D. London: H. Kimpton. 1884.
The Elements of Pathology. By E. Rindfleisch, M.D. Translated by W. H. Mercur, M.D. Revised by James Tyson. London: H. Kimpton. 1884.

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