EXAMINATION OF DRINKING-WATERS.

EXAMINATION OF DRINKING-WATERS.

The property of the presence of Horsley's pyrogallic acid test in the determination of the presence of nitrates and nitrites in water? Wanklyn's method is, no doubt, the best, but costs too much in money and time for constant use in rural districts, where every second house has its own well. If there are any grave objections to Horsley's process, will anyone be good enough to inform me where I can get a description of any other process of water-examination which will supplement the silver test and the microscope? This is a subject which is of great interest to many other medical officers of health as well as to your obedient servant,

* * * Per ten the most accurate method of determining in the service of the service method of determining in the service method of the service m

*** By far the most accurate method of determining nitrates in water is the "mercury" method; but, as this involves the use of gas-apparatus, it will probably not find favour with "Sauerkraut." The indigo-method, after some practice, also gives very satisfactory results, and can be performed without any costly apparatus. Both methods are fully described in Frankland's Agricultural Chemical Analysis (Macmillan and Co.).

THE INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY.

JOSEPH J. MOONEY.-1. Candidates for the associateship of the Institute of Chemistry must pass through a course of three years' study in chemistry, physics, and mathematics at some college approved by the Council. 2. They have also to pass an examination in practical chemistry. 3. All particulars can be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Institute of Chemistry, 9, Adelphi Terrace, Strand.

"A SURGEON" has not enclosed his card. We would advise him to write a letter to the Registrar of the General Medical Council, the body charged with the administration of the Medical Act.

NEPHROTOMY.

MR. KNAGGS writes to us that the report of the case of Nephrotomy, which is published in the Journal of February 28th, page 482, contains an error. In the report for August 19th, two drachms (3ii) of tincture of hyoscyamus are stated to have been prescribed three times a day; it should read half a drachm (3ss). He adds that the after-progress of the case was not satisfactory. Phthisical symptoms developed in the lungs, threatening a rapid course, and the patient went back to her friends in the country.

CHRONIC SUPPRESSION OF URINE.

CHRONIC SUPPRESSION OF URINE.

SIR,—If any of your readers could throw any light upon the pathology of the case which I am about briefly to relate, I should feel much obliged, as neither from any books within my reach, nor from my professional brethren who have seen the case with me, have I been able to get any satisfactory explanation.

M. P., aged 30, a single lady, had scarlatina three years ago, followed, as a sequela, by some obscure affection of the left sciatic nerve, occasioning constant pain and lameness. Four months ago, she got cold, which was followed by severe neuralgic pain in the back, sides, and abdomen. These pains, together with great hyperasthesia of the surface, generally, have continued up to the present. They were associated at times with other symptoms—nansea and vomiting, insomnia, tenesmus, strangury, etc. She has obstinate constipation; menstruation is regular, but slight. She never perspires, and her kidneys, for the last four months, have only excreted urine at intervals of from four to eight days, and then only from twenty to thirty ounces of high-coloured urine, sometimes loaded with lithates, sometimes clear, but always free from albumen or sugar, and of specific gravity 1020, or thereabouts.

That the urine is not excreted there can be no doubt, as she has a nurse with her day and night, and her bladder during the interval is always empty. She takes a fair quantity of food for a person confined to bed, and the suppression of

takes a fair quantity of food for a person confined to bed, and the suppres urine does not appear to affect her general health. She comes of a gouty family, and is of a neurotic temperament. I need not say that she has had drugs in great variety; none of them, however, seemed to have the slightest effect upon the secretion of urine. Her temperature is always normal, and her pulse ranges

between 80 and 100.

I am quite at a loss to know what can be the cause of this condition. the nervous system preside over the secretion of urine to such an extent that it will even prevent the fluid from exuding through the walls of the renal capillaries for eight days at a time? What becomes of the urea and uric acid? I cannot find traces of either in the condensed moisture of her breath. Is the condition common or rare? These are the questions to which I seek replies.— Your obedient servant.

NUMEROUS TAPPINGS. NUMEROUS TAPPINGS.

SIB,—Having seen, in the British Medical Journal of February 14th, a case of tapping several times, reported by Dr. Farrar, I enclose a short account of a similar case which came under my care some years ago, in which I tapped 65 times in ten and a half years. The last time, sharp peritonitis was set up, which appeared to have closed the sac, and the patient lived two years afterwards in comparative comfort, without requiring the operation again, and then died from cardiac disease at the age of 76.

The patient was aged 64 at the time of the first tapping. The quantities removed were as follows.

1865, February 58 pints. August 54 To July 1875, 63 times, averaging 36 pints .. 2,268.

Total 2,975 pints,

or 371 gallons and 7 pints. -Yours truly,

Add one-fourth for weight

WM. EDWARD HYDE.

Leominster CONSECUTIVE TWIN-PREGNANCIES.

Sir,—With reference to Mr. Hannay's note on Four Consecutive Twin-Pregnancies in the Journal for January 10th, page 70, I would like to comment on the frequency of twin-pregnancies among the negro population of the island of Trinidad.

On December 14th, 1884, I delivered a woman of twins, who, in her immediately preceding confinement, two years ago, also had twins, both living and healthy at the present time. I know of another case of two consecutive twin-pregnancies. The birth-returns also seem to show a greater frequency of single twin-pregnancies as compared with English subjects, though net so great as in some of the nations consecuted in Panels's table (Parels' of the nations consecuted in Panels') table (Parels' of the nations consecuted in Panels') table (Parels' of the nations consecuted in Panels') table (Parels') and disting the parels of the nations consecuted in Panels') table (Parels') and disting the parels of some of the nations represented in Puech's table (Playfair, 2nd edition, p. 177). I am, etc.,

BEAVEN LAKE, M.D.Lond.,

Government Medical Officer, Trinidad.

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

Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Henty, London; Mr. W. Carey, Hounslow; Mr. G. Evans, London; Mr. G. A. Ibbetson, London; Mr. Thomas Thornton. Canterbury : A Surgeon; Dr. J. J. Welpley, Bandon; Dr. J. O. Affleck, Edinburgh; Mr. H. Bigg, London; Mr. R. Smith, Winchfield; Dr. J. A. McWilliam. London; Mr. W. Emerson, Dalston; Mr. T. G. Parrott, Bournemouth: Mr. J. Rose, Liverpool; Dr. Willoughby, London; The Secretary of the Journal of the British Dental Association, London; Mr. R. Scaife, Market Weighton; Mr. J. Hardie, Manchester; Mr. W. Marriott, London; Mr. H. W. Fagge, Lutterworth; Mr. A. J. Garland, Oamaru, New Zealand; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Mr. Clifford Smith, London; Mr. A. Patton, Finglas, co. Dublin; Dr. Macpherson, London; Dr. Banch, New York; Dr. F. Simms, London; Dr. Eustace Smith, London; Mr. McGowan, Bradford; Mr. G. Murray, London; Mr. W. Lake, Walthamstow; Mr. J. Brindley James, London; Mr. McLaghlan, London; Mr. W. Whitehead, Manchester; M.B.; Dr. Whiteford, London; Mr. M. D. Makuna, Ystrad; Mr. J. Sutcliffe, Stalybridge; Mr. E. Watson, Isleham; Dr. Mackey, Turvey; Mr. W. H. Webb, Kingsbridge; Mr. E. Morgan, London; Mr. Otto Hehner, London; Dr. C. Cameron, M.P., London; J. S. D.; The Secretary of the Parkes Museum, London; Mr. E. Downes, Eastbourne; Mr. D. Murdoch, London; Mr. H. Sell, London; Dr. Farquharson, London; Mr. E. Norris, London; Dr. A. Thom, jun., Crieff; Mr. George Cowell, London; Mr. W. Brydon, Hawick; Dr. J. Maunsell, Bath; Mr. W. Glosford, London; Mr. W. A. Thomson, Ampthill; Dr. C. Parsons, Dover; Dr. J. Malony, Dublin; Mr. M. Parry-Jones, Dulwich; Mr. M. Phillips, Whitley; Mr. R. H. Matthews, Eden Bridge; The Director-General of the Medical Department of the Army, London; The Secretary of the Mahomed Memorial Fund, London; The Secretary of the Pathological Society, London; The Secretary of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, London; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. P. Reginald, London; Sir E. Lechmere, London; Dr. Aitken, Rome; The Secretary of the Cancer Hospital, Brompton; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; The Secretary of the Whittle-Hutchinson Fund, Liverpool; Mr. C. F. Cuthbert, Gloucester; Dr. W. Ewart, London; Mr. F. Page, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. MacFarlane, Kilmarnock; Dr. Clifford Allbutt, Leeds; Dr. E. Waters, Chester; Our Paris Correspondent; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Dr. E. Cresswell Baber, Brighton; Mr. W. J. Beatty, Stocktonon-Tees; Mr. J. Hunter, South Queensferry; Mr. Ernest Sheaf, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. T. Whitehead Reid, Canterbury: Mr. J. A. Francis, Edenham; Mr. C. Grindrod, Malvern; Mr. C. Lennox Peel, London; J. C. H.; Dr. Lucas, London; Mr. T. H. Morse, Norwich; Mr. E. Garraway, Faversham; Mr. W. N. Parker, Cardiff; Mr. J. A. Myrtle, Harrogate; Mr. B. T. Lowne, London; Dr. J. Lonie, Preston; Mr. R. Calder, Liverpool; Sir J. E. Eardley Wilmot, London; Our Belfast Correspondent; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. E. Berdoe, London; Dr. A. D. Macdonald, Liverpool; Mr. S. W. Sibley, London; Mr. W. W. Millard, Midlothian; Mr. J. E. Lane, London; Dr. W. Priestley, London; Mr. W. Curran, London; Dr. J. Crichton Browne, London; The Secretary of the Local Government Board; Dr. Bodington, Birmingham; Mr. R. D. Fox, Manchester; Mr. William Martindale, London; Dr. A. T. Brand, Driffield; Mr. H. W. Roberts, Lewisham; Mr. J. Russell Harris, London; Dr. Alexander Hill, Grantchester; Dr. Imlach, Liverpool; Our Dublin Correspondent, etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A Practical Treatise of Diseases of the Ear. By D. B. St. J. Roosa, M.D., LL.D. Sixth Edition. London; H. K. Lewis. 1885.

Handbook of the Theory and Practice of Medicine. By F. T. Roberts, M.D. Sixth Edition, London: H. K. Lewis. 1885.

Quasi Cursores. Portraits of the High Officers and Professors of the University of Edinburgh at its Tercentenary Festival. Drawn and Etched by William Hole, A.R.S.A. Edinburgh: T. and A. Constable. 1885.

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