PRACTICE IN AUSTRALIA: A WARNING.

PRACTICE IN AUSTRALIA: A WARNING.

SIR,—You will be conferring a great benefit on many members of the profession by inserting this letter in your Journal as a caution to them not to come out here. I have lately arrived, after selling my practice at home, and am struck at the enormous extent to which medical practice is overdone in the colonies; not a ship arrives but that it brings one or two medical men, in some cases with their families, and this has already resulted in disappointment and great expense, on account of their having to retrace their steps. During the past few years, so many have arrived, and the universities have also been turning out their own men, that the country is overfull, and, as a necessary consequence, underselling is going on, and, in Sydney, a gentleman has started a provident dispensary. The population which pours into America does not do so here and if farmers are washed out in England, they are burnt up out here for want of rain; in many parts, no rain falls for upwards of a year. In the whole of these colonies, there are not, at the present moment, a dozen practices, genuine or not, for sale. Before anyone comes out, let him communicate with Messrs. Francis and Co., 31, Bourke Street East, Mellourne, or with Mr. Bruck, 15; Castlereagh Street, Sydney, medical agents. It will repay anyone to give them a fee for their information and advice. I have been told that the last name agentleman has already written home, with a view to stop the constant influx.—Yours truly,

A MEMBER. Yours truly,

Yours truly,

ALEXANDER AND ADAMS'S OPERATION.

AR,—In the JOURNAL Of February 28th, Mr. Walter Rivington lays claim to priority in proposing the operation of shortening the round uterine ligaments for some forms of displacement of the uterus. He very properly thinks it just possible that some other person may have hit upon the plan before him; and, from what is already known of the subject, not a few have proposed it, and some have gone so far as to practise it on the dead body, and this before the

year 1872.

In a short note on the subject by Herr Landau, of Berlin, in the Deutsche Medizinal Zeitung, of May 12th, 1884. I find the statement that the originator of the proposal to restore the uterus into position by drawing out the round ligaments was a certain M. Alquie, who published the proposal in the Bulletin de TAcadémie de Médecine in 1844; further, that it is mentioned in the works of Hegar and 'Kaltenbach, and that it was carried out on the dead body by

Freund.

It is generally understood that many people before Watt's day proposed the steam-engine, but it was reserved for this genius to make a real, active, and mighty power of it. So with regard to this operation, and a very useful one it is, as I can personally testify. Many individuals may have had the idea in their heads, and some may even have practised it on the dead body; but it remained for Dr. Alexander, of Liverpool, to make a power of it, not only to establish it as an operation that could be performed, but as one that could do more for certain cases than could be achieved by any other method of treatment. A dozen inventors who think a thing (like Mr. Rivington, Alquié, Freund, and others) cannot deprive the real inventor, who not only invents, but carries it out and establishes it, of the credit that is justly his due.—I am, yours truly,

J. E. Burrox, Surgeon to the Hospital for Women, Liverpool.

64, Rodney Street, Liverpool.

64, Rodney Street, Liverpool.

OVERPRESSURE ON NURSES.

SIR,—The assistance of trained hospital-nurses is so valuable to the community at large, and to our profession in particular, that I hope you will allow me space in your columns to ventilate one of their grievances. I refer to the unconscionable length of time nurses are frequently kepton night-duty at some of our hospitals. A lady-relative of mine thus had night-duty for six months at a stretch. pitals. A lady-relative of mine thus had night-duty for six months at a stretch, and I can name another instance where a nurse was kept at this trying work for

and I can name another instance where a nurse was kept at this trying work for a whole year.

Now, sir, I maintain that this is unfair and unwise. I know of no other class of the community the members of which are kept at night-work for so long a spell at a time. Policemen, sailors, etc., are rarely put on night-duty for more than a month, and yet we expect women, often delicately nurtured, to do what is not expected of powerful athletic men. This, I say, is most unfair. It is also most unwise; for how can we expect a jaded sleepy nurse to devote the constant unwearying attention to her charges that their condition requires?—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

A. G. B.

THE HISTORY OF THE USE OF IPECACUANHA IN DYSENTERY. The History of the Use of Iperacuanha in Dysextery.

Sir.—Dr. Macpherson's paper on the above subject, read at the meeting of the Medical Society on the 9th March last, was one of great interest. It would appear, however, that it was let to Sir Joseph Fayrer to recall the fact that it was to Mr. Docker we owed the introduction of the remedy into the practice of the British army, and the reduction of its employment to a system.

Sir Joseph Fayrer was right in thus giving honour to whom honour is due; for, although something may be credited to improved sanitation, etc., there is no doubt that the great decrease in the mortality from dysentery in India, in late years, is due to the employment of the system of treatment introduced by Surgeon-Major Docker.

Having treated a large number of cases of dysentery with inccarnable in

Surgeon-Major Docker.

Having treated a large number of cases of dysentery with inecacuanha, in large doses, during my service in Ceylon, India, and British Burmah, I can bear testimony to its great efficacy in acute cases—a few twenty-grain doses bringing the disease promptly to a termination, when treated at an early period, as stated by Sir Joseph Fayrer. I can also bear out Dr. Cullimore's belief that, "in dysentery associated with hepatic disease, ipecacuanha, in large doses, is not well borne." Dysentery is frequently found associated with, or dependent on, hepatic correction.

hepatic congestion.

My latest experience of the treatment of such cases was given in a paper in the Indian Medical Gazette of July 1st, 1831; and, as the passage bearing on the treatment of this complication is short, and the subject one of much interest, I

beg leave to quote it.

"When dysenterly is present, complicating the hepatic congestion, I have found the treatment suggested at page 52 of my book successful, namely, a mixed treatment of alternately given ipecacuanha (20 to 30 grains) and chloride of ammonium, until the relief of the dysentery; or a full mid-day dose of the ipecacuanha; or the latter in enemata, should there be fear of vomiting, with morning and evening doses of the chloride. Or, in some cases, a mid-day dose of the chloride may be preferable, and morning and evening doses of the ipecacuanha until the dysentery is checked. In such cases, the patient, if asked, will express himself as receiving great relief from pain by the exhibition of the chloride; and, if so, it may be well to give it more frequently than here recommended."—I am. sir, yours, etc.,

WM. STEWART, M.D., Surgeon-General A.M.D. (Retired).

No CURE, NO PAY

THE following advertisement is copied by the Indian Medical Journal from the Pioneer of January 24th.

Pioner of January 24th.

"Wanted, an experienced doctor, who thoroughly understands all sorts of diseases of the ear, to take charge of a patient in Nepal, one of whose ears, after having discharged pus for several years, is now quite stopped, while the other ear is only partially affected. If any physician succeed in curing this patient, he will have a reward of filteen thousand rupes; but he will receive nothing ite fail to give relief. Doctors agreeing to come to Nepal to take up the above case on the above conditions are requested to send up their applications, with testimonials, to Meer Subha Bulwan Singh, private secretary to His Highness the Maharajah of Nepal, at Khatmandu."

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

Mr. John West, London; Mr. W. H. Smith, Menden, near Coventry; The Editor of the Boys' Own Paper, London; Mr. F. Thackeray, Southend; Mr. J. Willcocks, Overton; Dr. Borrowman, Earlstown; Mr. H. T. Legat, Stockton-on-Tees; Mr. W. Buchanan, Chatham; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Heywood Smith, London; Mr. E. L. Robinson, Guernsey; Dr. G. H. Hume, Newcastleon-Tyne; Dr. J. A. Nealson, Sierra Leone; Mr. John Taylor, Birmingham; Mr. J. McK. Ackland, Exeter; Dr. H. Campbeil Pope, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. A. H. Benson, Dublin : The Secretary of the Pathological Society, London : The Secretary of the Clinical Society; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampten; Mr. P. S. Brito, London; Mr. T. F. Raven, Broadstairs; Mr. James Startin, London; Dr. H. Sutherland, London; Dr. J. Woodman, Exeter; Mr. Arthur Cooper, London; Dr. H. Grey Edwards, Bangor; Mr. C. Clark Burman, Belford; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Our Paris Correspondent; Dr. A. M. Edge, Manchester; A Member; Dr. A. T. Brand, Driffield; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. F. G. Connor, Cockermouth; Mr. W. Martindale, London; Mr. H. J. Barnes, Chatham; Mr. M. D. Makuna, Ystrad Rhondda; Dr. G. Henty, London; Mr. G. A. Gloag, Bristol; Dr. J. F. Stamper, Pembroke; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Mr. S. A. Lucas, Liverpool; Mr. A. De Winter Baker, Dawlish; Mr. W. R. Thompson, London; Mr. H. Drinkwater, Sunderland; Dr. J. Mackie, Alexandria; Mr. H. A. Lownds, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. Kelly, Taunton; The Countess Cowper, Panshanger, Hertford; Dr. Mackey, Brighton; Dr. J. A. Lindsey, Belfast; Major-General Allen Johnson, London; Mr. J. S. Waters, Caithness, N.B.; Mr. M. Sturrock, London; Dr. A. De Watteville, London; Dr. J. S. Bristowe, London; Mr. A. H. Haggard, London; Mr. McFarland, Dungannon; Mr. J. R. Stedman, Guildford; "Thirty-six"; Dr. A. Swann, Batley; Mr. D. Mouat, Leytonstone; Mr. D. W. Martin, London; Dr. Suckling, Birmingham; Mr. Mayo Robson, Leeds; Dr. John Murray, London; Dr. Harding, Fortis Green; Dr. Thin, London; J. V., etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

On the Coca of Peru. By J. L. W. Thudichum, M.D., F.R.C.P. London Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1885.

Traitement du Choléra. Par Georges Hayem. Paris : G. Masson.

The Prevention and Treatment of Lateral Spinal Curvature. By Mathias Roth, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1885.

The Student's Guide to Clinical and Medical Case-taking. By Francis Walker, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.

Cocaine and its Use in Ophthalmic and General Surgery. By H. Knapp, M.D. London and New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1885.

The Story of My Life. By J. Marion Sims, M.D., Ll.D. Edited by his Son, H. Marion Sims, M.D. New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1885.

A Practical Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations. By F. H. Hamilton, A.B., A.M., M.D., LL.D. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1885.

Helpat Hand. By the Countess Cowper. London : Wells Gardner, Darton, and Co. 1885.

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