

## WHOOPING-COUGH.

SIR,—Would you kindly insert the following questions to assist me in obtaining information more extensive than my own concerning the phenomena of whooping-cough, a subject which I am at present studying? Might I ask any of your readers, who are so disposed, to communicate with me directly, instead of through the medium of your paper?

1. Are the paroxysms more frequent always at night, whether the patient sleeps or not?
2. At what hours of the night are the paroxysms most apt to occur?
3. What relation do they bear to the sleep of the child?—that is, during profound sleep or otherwise.
4. What circumstances appear to induce them?—Yours truly,  
Belford, Northumberland.

C. CLARK BURMAN, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed.

## A WARNING.

SIR,—I learn that an impostor is going about the country bearing a card and recommendation from me. He has victimised members of the profession already by representing himself as a doctor's son. Let me warn your readers against anyone showing a card in the name of E. PAGET THURSTAN, M.D. Cantab.  
17, Park Road, Southborough.

## A CONSULTING-ROOM THIEF.

SIR,—About 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, April 2nd, a broad shouldered man, from 40 to 50 years of age, with fair sandy whiskers, called at my house under the pretence of seeking information about a Mrs. Ward, and representing himself as an agent of Messrs. Pollack. He was permitted, in my absence, to go into the consulting-room to write a letter to me. He availed himself of the opportunity to steal a large brass syringe lying on my table, although my servant never left him alone a moment. My servant gathered he had paid visits to other medical men near, which, on further inquiry, I found to be the case; but, happily, in each instance, his predatory instincts were defeated.

I gave full information to the police, who discovered my syringe the next morning at a pawnbroker's about a mile distant. At the same time, he pawned a square marble clock, evidently the results of his day's labour. I have reason to hope, from certain circumstances, that his career will not be a long one; but, in the meanwhile, I am desirous of warning my professional brethren, so that they may be on their guard against such a character. He wears a dark Chesterfield great coat, with billycock hat, and light trousers; and the tale he tells is generally a little involved and rather incoherent.—Yours faithfully,  
J. ROCHE LYNCH.

8, Boyne Terrace, Holland Park, W.

## HAIR FALLING OFF.

SIR,—A young lady friend of mine, who enjoys perfect health, is much distressed because her hair is falling off in alarming quantities. Would any member kindly suggest what remedies have been found useful in such cases? Some of the patent "hair-restorers" have been tried, but without any result.—I am, yours faithfully,  
A MEMBER.

## PERMANGANATE OF POTASH.

SIR,—In dispensing permanganate of potash for internal administration, what necessity is there to use China clay as an excipient? I presume the reason for so doing is to avoid the use of organic matter, which might rob the salt of some of its oxygen during the preparation; but, after the pills are swallowed, this robbery must take place as soon as they are softened by the fluids in the stomach or bowels. Consequently, the value of the drug cannot depend on the salt as a permanganate, for it must be absorbed as, and its activity must depend on, some other salt of the metal. I do not see, therefore, why the drug cannot be dispensed as other pills are; or, if there be any fear of spontaneous combustion, a less oxidised preparation of manganese, such as the precipitated oxide, might be used.—Yours, etc.,  
F. W. JORDAN.

## DISCOLORATION BY NITRATE OF SILVER.

SIR,—In answer to Mr. Rayley Owen's question as to how long one-fourth of a grain of nitrate of silver, twice a day, may be given without bringing on the typical discoloration, I beg to state that Riemer (*Archiv für Heilkunde*, p. 296, Leipzig, 1875) has seen a case of tabes where a patient took 5,672 pills, and the first traces of argyria appeared after twelve months' use, with 2,900 pills, containing 1,740 grains of the nitrate, or 1,104 grains of metallic silver. Argyria, once established, is incurable, the silver being deposited, not in the epidermis, but in the corium. Iodide of potassium, and subsulphite of sodium, which have been recommended for internal use to eliminate the deposit, have not the least effect. It is therefore desirable, when prescribing this drug, to stop short of a quantity which would cause discoloration.

Krahmer (Theodor Husemann's *Handbuch der Gesamten Arzneimittellehre*, vol. 1, p. 464, second edition, Berlin, 1883) has shown that the minimum quantity of the nitrate which will produce argyria is 450 grains. The highest amount given should, therefore, be under 300 grains. Louisvill, Ollivier, and Friedreich assert that albuminuria is apt to be induced by prolonged administration of this drug. The urine should, therefore, be examined from time to time; although, according to Althaus, who has used it very frequently, its occurrence must be exceptional, as he has never found a trace of albumen in the urine under these circumstances. The latter author gives a full and detailed account as to its mode of administration in his last work on *Sclerosis of the Spinal Cord*, p. 306, from which instructive work some of my quotations are taken. He advises the nitrate to be made into pills with argilla, or bolus alba (silicate of alumina), which cannot decompose it, as all organic substances reduce nitrate of silver, whether in substance or in solution; pills made with liquorice, or crumb of bread, etc., are, therefore, practically inert. Martindale has recently recommended kaoline-ointment as an excipient. Kaoline is native silicate of alumina which has been purified from free silica and undecomposed fespas, and is made up into an ointment with equal parts of vaseline and paraffin.—Yours faithfully,  
FORDHAM LODGE, ESSEX.

## DOSAGE OF CUCAINE.

MR. HENRY W. J. ELLIS.—One grain of hydrochlorate of cucaine may be dissolved in five to fifty parts of water, and applied to the mucous membrane to allay pain or deaden sensibility, or pure cucaine may be dissolved in olive oil or lard, and smeared on any painful part. The dose of the hydrochlorate of cucaine may be one-thirtieth of a grain to two grains.

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## BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London: Vol. XXVI. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1885.

Endemic Goitre or Thyroecle. By W. Robinson, M.D., M.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.

Bournemouth and Its Surroundings. By Horace Dobell, M.D. London: Smith Elder, and Co. 1885.

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