

REFORM AT THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

MR. NELSON HARDY has forwarded us the subjoined, with a request for publication.

1, Southville Park Villas, Dulwich, S.E.
April 21st, 1885.

SIRS,—In reply to your invitation to attend a meeting of the Association of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, on May 5th, I am afraid that, as I do not approve of the separation of Fellows and Members into hostile camps (for which I am bound to say your Association is not wholly responsible), my presence at your meeting would hardly help you, unless, indeed you are prepared to take some steps for co-operating with the Association of Fellows, in which case I would gladly assist.

It appears to me, as I believe it does to others, that the series of resolutions passed at the meeting held in the College, in March, 1884, affords a basis on which Fellows and Members ought to be able to work for the common good. Those resolutions asked, *inter alia*, for the following important reforms; namely, 1, that the Fellows and Members should be invested with a larger share in the management of the College; 2, that no important alteration should be made in the constitution or relations of the College, without the consent of the Fellows and Members; 3, that there should be an annual meeting of the Fellows and Members, at which the annual report of the Council should be presented, received, and adopted.

Had the Fellows and Members, since the meeting, unitedly adhered to this moderate programme, there can, I think, be no doubt that the Council would have been, ere this, forced to yield; but dividing into two associations, each bent upon obtaining as much for its own order as possible, the interests of the profession fell as they prey to those who believe in the ancient maxim, *divide et impera*, and the Council of the College has been able, for a whole year, to act as if it had never accepted any of these proposals, not even the third, in a modified form, or as if its acceptance of that proposal was one of those "inoperative" resolutions which Mr. Marshall told us the Council was in the habit of passing. As there may possibly be some in both your Association and the Fellows who will agree with me in thinking that our true policy in view of the determined hostility of the Council and permanent officials of the College to all real reform, should be to seek union rather than to divide our forces, I shall send a copy of this letter to the medical papers.—I am, dear sirs, faithfully yours,
H. NELSON HARDY.

The Honorary Secretaries, Association of Members
of the Royal College of Surgeons.

TRUSSES.

AFFLICTED writes: "Some weeks ago I found myself the unfortunate possessor of a right inguinal hernia, for which I have since worn an ordinary circular truss; but my discomfort has been so great, that I shall be glad to ask my medical brethren, through the medium of the JOURNAL:—1. What kind of instrument shall I find most serviceable? 2. From what maker can I obtain it?"

* A correspondent writes: "I have found Salmon and Ody's very good, but there are others that might be suitable to some cases. In some difficult cases the surgeon's, as well as the maker's skill is required to devise modifications. Cheap trusses often do much harm. I lately had a very troublesome case, the result of a hard pad and bad spring."

FERMENTATION.

MR. J. S. MUIR.—See Duclaux's *Handbook on Fermentation*, one of the series published by the Health Exhibition. In Mr. Watson Cheyne's *Antiseptic Surgery*, the matter is also discussed in detail, and many references are given. Dr. Paul Bert's work is entitled *La Pression Barométrique*; in it will be found the most complete series of observations yet published on the subject of barometric pressure in relation to fermentations.

OLIVE GREEN STOOLS.

SIR,—For the last six weeks a patient has passed stools of a light olive-green colour. When the bowels have not acted for a day or two, the colour is much darker, almost black. Treatment has had no effect. As far as I can ascertain, writers on diseases of the liver do not allude to this condition, its causes or consequences. One only attributes it to acidity of the small intestines.

Any of your correspondents who can suggest the cause and treatment of this condition, will much oblige.—Yours truly,
M. B.

PERMANGANATE OF POTASH IN AMENORRHEA.

SIR,—Prescribers of the above named drug will find unguentum resinae a convenient and suitable excipient when ordered in pill-form, whilst kaolin is difficult to manipulate, and of a stony hardness when made up and dried.—Yours faithfully,
A. H. BAMPTON, M.D.
Plymouth.

SURGEONS' CONSULTING-ROOM COUCH.

X. Y. Z.—In reply to our correspondent's question, "What sort of couch is best for use in a surgeon's consulting room?" a correspondent (E. N. S.) writes: "The particular kind would depend upon the use for which it was required. There are gynæcological couches, which, however, are by no means universally liked by specialists; and, upon the whole, a simple upholsterer's couch, without sides, and a slight sloping head-rest, is the best for general purposes. In my own room I use an equilibrium chair-couch, which is beautifully balanced. The patient sits upon it as in an ordinary arm-chair, and then, either by his own very slight exertion, or by my hand, the chair is extended into a couch, and I have had stops added, so that it can be fixed in any position. I have also had one of the arms made to turn back, to allow me to get more thoroughly at a patient. My reason for having this chair is partly because it takes up less room than an ordinary couch, and partly for the benefit of paralysed people or helpless cripples, who can more easily be placed in a recumbent position on it. It is made by Batchelor, of Croydon."

EARLIEST PHYSICAL SIGNS OF PHTHISIS.

SIR,—If some of your readers would state, from observation, what may be considered the earliest physical signs of phthisis, giving one as the more probable, I shall feel myself obliged.—I am, sir,
L.R.C.P.Ed.

REMOVAL OF SURPLUS HAIR BY ELECTROLYSIS.

SIR,—May I ask, through your columns, for a means of removing surplus hair by electrolysis? Where can I see such a plan in practice? I have a lady patient with a growth of hair on the face; and she wishes it to be eradicated, so that it will not grow again.—Yours truly,
T. R. ALLINSON, L.R.C.P.Ed.

C. T. BROOKHOUSE, M.D.—Arsenite of bromine, or liquor arsenici bromatus, may be had of Martindale, New Cavendish Street, W.; Harvey and Reynolds, Leeds, and many manufacturing pharmacists.

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

Mr. O. T. Williams, Holyhead; Dr. Ward Cousins, Southsea; Dr. Clark, Dundee; Mr. C. O. Elkerton, London; Mr. J. Furley, London; Mr. W. A. Ellis, London; Mr. Alfred Harvey, Birmingham; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Our Dublin Correspondent; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, London; Professor McKendrick, Glasgow; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Mr. J. Tweedy, London; Mr. H. de Styrup, Middleborough-on-Tees; Our Berlin Correspondent; Dr. H. C. Pope, London; Mr. E. Hurry Fenwick, London; Mr. W. H. Pearce, London; Our Cairo Correspondent; Our Manchester Correspondent; Dr. H. Tuke, London; Messrs. Ingram and Royle, London; Dr. Myers, London; Mr. J. W. Battenham, Wolverhampton; Dr. J. T. Faulkner, Stretford; Dr. Huggard, London; The Rev. T. L. F. Slack, Omagh; The Pure Water Company, London; Mr. G. G. Parsons, Froine; Dr. C. W. Suckling, Birmingham; Mr. H. Nelson Hardy, London; Dr. E. G. Wake, London; Messrs. P. Blakiston and Co., Philadelphia; Mr. Henry Greenway, Plymouth; Mr. Newton H. Nixon, London; Mr. Thomas Percival, Knottingley; Mr. R. Benham, London; Mr. T. Whitehead Reid, Canterbury; Dr. D'Arcy Adams, London; Mr. F. A. Eaton, London; M.B.; Mr. W. T. Robertson, Port Said; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Dr. Curnow, London; Dr. Morgan, Manchester; Dr. E. E. Meeres, Plymouth; Messrs. Street and Co., London; Mr. Joseph Lewis, Birmingham; Dr. Edwards, London; Dr. A. H. Bampton, Plymouth; Mr. Martindale, London; Dr. H. Tizard, Weymouth; Dr. W. Ewart, London; Mr. A. F. Blagg, Clifton; Dr. H. J. Benham, Ipswich; Mr. A. Duke, Dublin; Dr. Styrup, Shrewsbury; Dr. J. O. Affleck, Edinburgh; Mr. Heather Bigg, London; Dr. Brailey, London; Messrs. Mappin and Co., Birmingham; Mr. Ernest Sansom, London; Mr. R. Freeman, London; Dr. Mackey, Brighton; Dr. J. Aikman, Guernsey; Mr. R. F. Benham, London; Dr. Maurice G. Evans, Cardiff; Our Paris Correspondent; The Secretary of the Medical Faculty, Aberdeen; Dr. Davies, Sherborne; Dr. MacAlister, Cambridge; Dr. R. J. Dunglison, Philadelphia; Dr. Spencer Smyth, Forest Hill; Dr. W. D. Miller, Berlin; Mr. J. B. Richardson, Torquay; Dr. Thorowgood, London; Dr. V. Poulain, London; Dr. Bristolow, London; Dr. S. H. Wright, Southport; Dr. Alder Smith, London; Mr. George Eastes, London; Mr. Walter Rivington, London; Mr. Oliver Pemberton, Birmingham; Mr. H. R. Bramwell, Edinburgh; Mr. L. Humphry, Cambridge; Mr. F. Pethridge, London; Mr. W. Marston Clark, Twickenham; The Secretaries of the Harveian Society; Miss B. Flackton, London; Dr. Spender, Bath; Mr. E. M. Reeve, King's Lynn; Dr. Whitla, Belfast; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Mr. J. E. Lane, London; Dr. Thin, London; A.M.B., C.M.; Mr. Louis Kettons, London; Mr. Sineon Snell, Sheffield; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; Mr. J. Lionel Stretton, Kidderminster; Mr. Mark H. Judge, London; Mr. James A. Aldis, Walsall; Dr. H. Rayner, London; Dr. Macdonald, Liverpool; Mr. Alfred Brown, Sale, Manchester; Dr. Walker, London, etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A Treatise on Gout and Rheumatism. By P. Hood, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.
Micro-Chemistry of Poisons, including their Physiological, Pathological, and Legal Relations, with an Appendix on the Detection and Microscopic Discrimination of Blood. By T. G. Wormley, M.D., Ph.D., LL.D. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Co. 1885.
Voice; Use and Stimulants. By Lennox Browne, F.R.C.S. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1885.
The Child's Voice. By Emil Behnke and Lennox Browne, F.R.C.S. London: Sampson Low and Co.

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