

SKIN-DISEASES IN PARIS.

DR. JOHN MARTIN.—At the St. Louis Hospital, the physicians visit daily between 8 and 10 in the morning. Any qualified medical man is admitted on presenting his card.

THE CONJOINT EXAMINING BOARD IN ENGLAND.

The Examining Board in England of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons met on April 25th, when 300 candidates presented themselves, to whom the following questions in Elementary Physiology were submitted, of which they were required to answer four, namely: 1. Name the tissues shown under microscopes A, B, C. By what characteristics do you recognise them? 2. Mention the circumstances retarding the coagulation of blood, and the appearances peculiar to a clot which has formed slowly. 3. Enumerate the chief constituents of urine. 4. State the differences in the blood in the right and left sides of the heart. 5. What are the changes undergone by the food in the stomach. 6. What is understood by the term cerebro-spinal nervous system?

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

The thirty-first annual election of pensioners and foundation-scholars in this excellent institution will take place this month. A correspondent, in drawing attention to the inprovidence of the members of our profession, states that, for the three vacancies for pensionerships, there are twenty-three candidates, namely, eighteen ladies and five gentlemen, only four of whom have been subscribers. For the foundation-scholarships, there are eight vacancies and fifty-three candidates, the parents of eight only having been subscribers to the College.

PERMANGANATE OF POTASH PILLS.

SIR,—Dr. F. Simms seems not to have grasped all the facts about the above. Made according to the *Extra Pharmacopœia*, I assert that it is impossible for the pills to "become hard and insoluble." With your permission, I will add a few more "facts." First, about kaolin, or porcelain-earth (derived from the Chinese *kaoling*), Dr. Simms daily carries in the material of his hat as much kaolin as would make some grosses of permanganate of potash pills. There are various kinds of kaolin, but the commonest is found, in large deposits, in Cornwall and Devonshire, and immense quantities of it are sent to Manchester, for the purpose of adulterating the calicoes and long-cloths, not for the Eastern markets only, but for the London market as well; the calico used by hatters as a basis for silk hats, more especially, contains a large quantity of it as a "dressing." It is very cheap. Twenty years ago it was employed by photographers to clear their silver bath; but even in pharmacy it is quite sixteen years ago when Mr. John Marshall, F.R.S., frequently ordered it as dusting powder for hospital use. It is, therefore, no new thing, and there is no mystery about it.

As I first suggested it as a pill-exipient, it is perhaps well that I should explain why I did so. I had previously used for these permanganate pills, as the most unoxidisable adhesive exipient, a mixture of paraffins, that is, vaseline and paraffin-wax, but, so combined, the pill-mass wanted firmness; this, the addition of the inert unoxidisable powder kaolin gave to it, and enabled the mass to be readily rolled into pills. These may be coated with sandarach varnish. This mode of making the pills I first published in the *Lancet*, and also in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, of January 13th, 1883; and, as I have said, so made, the pills neither become hard nor insoluble; a child might squeeze them flat between the fingers, and they are perfectly but slowly soluble—this is a great advantage. In solution, permanganate of potash is a nauseous and, in large doses, a dangerous drug, by the suddenness of its action on the stomach. The tablets, too, appear to be not safe, if swallowed whole; their quick solution and local action may occasionally cause ulceration of the stomach; whereas, a pill with an unctuous basis, such as I have suggested, cannot dissolve quickly. Thus made, too, the pills are fairly stable; volumetrically estimated, I found that, after two months' keeping, 92.8 per cent. of the permanganate still existed in the pills as permanganate.

The demand for these pills still continues great. In my own experience it may not, during the last two months, have been as great as previously to that time, but I think this is because they are more generally made by other chemists.—Your obedient servant,

WM. MARTINDALE.

TREATMENT OF PILES BY CRUSHING.

SIR,—I neither accept Mr. Downes's explanation, nor do I expect to receive an apology, for reasons mentioned in my letter to you of April 4th. I confess I am the more annoyed, because that which your correspondent claims to be an improvement of my clamp has just the contrary effect, which I found to be the case even before any publication on the subject; and of course, therefore, before Mr. Downes knew of the existence of my instrument.—I am, sir, yours truly,

R. FITZROY BENHAM.

Baron's Court, S.W.

AMBULANCE INSTRUCTION.

J. E.—If the ambulance instruction be of a strictly military character, the proper book would be the *Manual for the Medical Staff Corps*. This is now out of print, but will doubtless soon reappear. Unless it be strictly military, the book chiefly used is Surgeon-Major Shepherd's *Handbook*, written for and supplied by the St. John Ambulance Association, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C.

SURGEON (Leeds) asks: Is there any place for the treatment by massage of patients who are unable to pay full fees for treatment, besides board and lodging?

DR. STRETHILL H. WRIGHT (Southport) is thanked for his communication. The pamphlet has been received; the whole question to which it refers is receiving careful attention.

STAMMERING.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me of the name of any medical man who makes the treatment of stammering a speciality, or refer me to any work upon the subject?—Faithfully yours,

Great Yarmouth.

D. MEADOWS.

* * The *Impediments of Speech and their Cure*, by A. E. Gerats; see also *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, December 22nd, 1883, page 1,209; September 27th, 1884, page 614.

ERRATA.

In the *JOURNAL* of APRIL 18th, page 779, column 2, in heading of paper, after "Keith Norman Macdonald," insert "M.D." On page 780, column 1, line 23 from bottom, for "more rigors," read "no more rigors;" and at line 6 from bottom, for "influence," read "inference."—In Dr. Semon's letter on the Treatment of Gout by the Injection of Iodine, at page 917 of the *JOURNAL* for May 2nd, column 1, in line 3 of the letter, for "dangerous," read "disastrous."

DR. COOK (Cheltenham) asks in what year it was proposed to tax the income of hospitals.

DR. LEWIS is thanked for his communication. Our attention has already been directed to the subject.

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

Mr. W. Ashton Ellis, London; Mr. T. Aplin Marsh, Hammersmith; Dr. Sinclair, Dundee; Mr. Simon Baruch, New York; Mr. T. C. Montague, London; Mr. George Smith, Axbridge; Mr. W. C. Steele, Ealing; Mr. J. Brindley James, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. H. H. Tomkins, Gloucester; Mr. Alfred Putney, London; Mr. J. Cornelius Garman, Brewood; Dr. Glascock, Manchester; Mr. J. Heaton, London; Dr. Myers, London; Dr. Harvey, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Dr. J. Herbert Stowers, London; Dr. Drysdale, London; Mr. Sibley, London; Dr. Ormsby, Dublin; Mr. J. Ingleby Mackenzie, Rugby; Dr. John Martin, Manchester; Mr. F. C. Batchelor, Brockley; Mr. W. H. Pullin, Leamington; Mr. D. Biddle, Kingston-on-Thames; Mr. F. Werner, Dublin; Mr. J. Whitehouse, Sunderland; Mr. Mark H. Judge, London; Mr. H. Trueman Wood, London; Mr. J. Stuart Nairne, Glasgow; Mr. Newton H. Nixon, London; Mr. Frank Smith, Plumstead; Mr. J. Vesey Fitzgerald, London; Mr. T. L. Walford, Reading; Dr. Witham, Bethesda; Mr. William Donovan, Birmingham; Dr. W. W. Stainthorpe, Redcar; The Secretary of the Board of Trade; Mr. A. Hodges, Ryde, Isle of Wight; Mr. C. T. Kingzett, London; Dr. W. B. Hadden, London; Dr. M. Thomas, Glasgow; Mr. George Harrison, Chester; Brigade-Surgeon Barnwell, York; Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, London; Dr. Newman, Glasgow; Mr. G. A. McCallum, Dunnville, Ontario; Our Berlin Correspondent; Dr. Heywood Smith, London; Mr. T. F. Raven, Broadstairs; Mr. George Eastes, London; Messrs. Walter, Barker, and Son, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Messrs. J. Defries and Sons, London; Mr. G. F. Browne, Cambridge; Mr. F. W. S. Culhane, Hastings; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Our Paris Correspondent; Dr. Klein, London; Mr. E. Bellamy, London; Mr. A. M. Anderton, Dundee; Mr. W. Ronaldson Clark, Dundee; Mr. W. Gardner, London; Mr. F. Godfrey, London; Sir Lyon Playfair, London; The Secretary of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Mr. F. R. Cross, Bristol; The Secretary of the University of London; Mr. W. J. Simpson, Aberdeen; Dr. B. Foster, Birmingham; J. J. B.; Mr. Hugh Norris, South Fetherton; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, London; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Mr. C. E. Paget, Kendal; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. L. Warner, Dublin; Dr. Langdon Down, London; Mr. Henry Shapley, Leamington; Dr. E. H. Jacob, Leeds; Mr. R. Robb, Glasgow; Our Rome Correspondent; Mr. E. J. Griffiths, Birmingham; Mr. W. P. Mumford, Malvern; Mr. R. E. Power, Portsea; Dr. Kerr, London; B.; Mr. R. J. Gilbert, London; Dr. Hack Tuke, London; Dr. W. G. Lowe, Burton-on-Trent; Messrs. Woolfams and Co., London; Dr. W. Bruce, Dingwall; Our Birmingham Correspondent, etc.

BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Proceedings of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society. Vol. I. Edited by C. B. Keetley. London. 1884.

Lectures on Diseases and Injuries of the Ear. By W. B. Dalby, F.R.C.S. Third Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.

The Student's Guide to Medical Jurisprudence. By John Abercrombie, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.

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