

## JEWISH CIRCUMCISION.

SIR,—Could any Jewish or other members give information, or their opinions, on the following points. 1. To give a brief description of the operation of circumcision in the case of children of upper class Jews, and as to any bad after-effects. 2. On medical and health grounds, should the practice of circumcision have been retained by Christians? 3. Might not the observances by the majority of the Jewish women of to-day in regard to menstruation and childbirth be beneficial for the women of our lower classes, so far as consistent with their daily occupations? I do not at present enter into the question of Jewish distinctions as to animal food.—I am, sir, yours, etc., A. J. B.

\* 1. There is no difference in the circumcision of the children, to whatever class they may belong. The operation is performed by slipping the prepuce into the slit of a broad shield, for the protection of the glans penis; removing the prepuce with a bistoury; tearing backwards the mucous lamella of the foreskin so as to thoroughly and entirely expose the glans; and securing the wound by a strip of lint, which is removed the next morning. The whole operation, including dressing, does not occupy more time than one minute and a half to two minutes. As, doubtless, there are members of the Jewish community where our correspondent resides, he can have no difficulty in seeing how they perform the operation. Experience has shown that the operation is very rarely attended with bad effects. Hemorrhage may sometimes occur, but is easily stopped. Where the wound takes a sloughy intractable character, it has been found to give way to black wash, liquor carbonis detergens, etc. As a rule, the vast majority of cases are well within four or five days.

2. In the opinion of many surgeons, the practice of circumcision has very many beneficial aspects, and, after the wound is healed, no drawbacks. The question whether Christians should have retained it, is not one on which we can enter.

3. The practice of Jewish women with regard to menstruation is founded on the Mosaic law, and is consonant with the principles of the utmost cleanliness, physical and moral; its adoption, therefore, would be beneficial, not only "for the women of our lower classes," but for the women of all classes.

4. Our correspondent will find the subject of Jewish distinctions as to animal food ably and exhaustively worked out by Dr. Behrend, whose pamphlet is published at the office of the *Jewish Chronicle*, 2, Finsbury Square.

## A CATENA OF QUERIES.

SIR,—I would feel obliged if you would insert the following queries in your next or an early edition of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*.

1. What is the best and most easily applied test for water to be used for drinking purposes? Many of the tests recommended in text-books are not easy of application to the busy practitioner.

2. What practical test do you recommend for milk?

3. Is common vaseline beneficial or injurious to the human hair?

4. What is the easiest way of obtaining the degree of M.D. without "residence," etc., to one holding a licence of the College of Physicians (three years' standing) and a licence of the Apothecaries' Hall?

5. Can the title "Doctor" be legally in point of custom used by medical men not M.D.'s on door-plate, etc.?—I am, etc., VERA.

## THE SURGEON TO HIS SWEETHEART.

A CORRESPONDENT forwards us the following, which is, we believe, of ancient date.

Organisation's loveliest flower,  
My own that system let me call!  
The heart of this is in thy power,  
Chorda tendinea, valves, and all.

The cornea of those globes of sight,  
Diaphanous as morning dew,  
Give passage to the rays of light  
Reflected from each iris blue.

Above those orbits mind is there,  
Anterior lobe, as frontis full;  
Beneath that scalp of raven hair,  
Mine eyes discern a perfect skull.

With smiles those muscles wreath that  
face,  
Matched with the lily, where the rose,  
Just planted in its proper place,  
Right o'er the buccinator glows.

Within the white and slender hand  
Which that fair female subject owns,  
How lax each ligamentous band  
That binds the metacarpal bones!

Those bones compressed, that hand,  
in sport  
Will lether slip that bracelet through:  
Just as the brothers Davenport  
Long since the rope-trick used  
to do.

Oh, may that hand's palmaris be  
Stretched close as possible to mine!  
And may our sentiments agree  
Whilst our phalanges intertwine.

Let then, to bind me to my bride,  
With union ne'er to be undone,  
The nuptial ligature be tied,  
And Hymen's suture make us one.

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## BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Why not Eat Insects? By W. M. Holt. London: Field and Tuer.

The Science of Change of Air. By S. Skinner, M.D. London: Tinsley Brothers.

Surgical Delusions and Follies. By J. B. Roberts, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia: P. Blackston and Co. 1884.

Common Injuries to the Limbs. By E. Cotterell, M.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis. 1885.

Text-book of General Botany. By Dr. W. J. Behrens. Translated and Edited by Patrick Geddes, F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: Y. J. Pentland. 1885.

The Principles and Practice of Medicine. By R. M. Khory, M.D. In two volumes. Vol. i and ii. London: H. K. Lewis. 1885.

Transactions of the New York State Medical Association for the Year 1884. Vol. i. Edited for the Association by Dr. Austin Flint, jun., M.D. New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1885.

An Introduction to Practical Organic Analysis. By G. E. R. Ellis. London: Longmans and Co. 1885.

Johnston's Student's Atlas of Bones and Ligaments. By C. W. Cathcart, M.A., M.B., and F. M. Caird, M.B. London and Edinburgh: W. and A. K. Johnston. 1885.

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