

## A CASE OF SUPERFETATION.

SIR.—The case recorded by Mr. Gordon Nicholl in the JOURNAL, of May 30th, instead of being an authentic instance of superfetation, seems to be rather one of twin-fecundation, with the death and arrested development of one fetus, the other surviving, and apparently dying during the process of parturition. Such cases are by no means unfrequent, and are well described by Drs. Barnes in the first volume of their *Obstetric Medicine and Surgery*, page 256. They state: "It is in a high degree improbable that fecundation can take place through a uterus in the fourth month of gestation, when the decidua cavity is usually closed, and access to the tubal orifices is blocked."—Yours faithfully, Wimpole Street, W.

ARTHUR W. EDIS, M.D., F.R.C.P.

## MARITAL INTERFERENCE IN OBSTETRIC OPERATIONS.

SIR,—Will you kindly oblige me by answering the following query?

Is it illegal for a surgeon to use the forceps in an obstetric case, without first consulting and obtaining the consent of the patient's husband? The instrument was used successfully, to save rupture of the perineum in a patient aged 43, and a primipara, who has made capital progress since the confinement.

On the sixth day after the confinement, the husband demands to know why those "devil's instruments" were used, and threatens he would bring an action if the nurse had done her duty, and warned me not to use them. I may say he was perfectly aware that I had my instruments with me when I went to his house with him.—I am, etc.,

L.F.P.S.

\* "L.F.P.S." was perfectly justified in using the forceps in such a case.

## SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION IN LEICESTER.

MR. GEORGE SERJEANT (Leicester).—A large proportion of children recently born in Leicester are unvaccinated. Three importations of small-pox took place there last year, but the disease did not spread, owing, it is stated, to the vigilant energy of the sanitary department in taking preventive measures. The Health Committee of Leicester, apparently conscious of the special danger which a case of small-pox constitutes amongst their unvaccinated population—a spark amongst tinder—take, it is alleged, stringent precautions for the instant removal to hospital of each case as recognised, as well as for the isolation of all the other inmates of the infected house. But obviously a great risk is being run.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

The following questions in Physiology and Anatomy were submitted to the candidates at the examination for the Fellowship on May 22nd. *Physiology* (three questions at least to be answered). 1. Describe the development of the large intestine. 2. What views do you entertain concerning the mechanism of the secretion of urine? What objections may be taken to the view that filtration forms a part of the process? 3. Describe a tetanic contraction of a skeletal muscle, and the tracing that may be obtained from it. Discuss the nature of a voluntary movement, and of a single beat of the heart-muscle, giving full reasons for your conclusions. 4. How is the heat of the body generated and regulated? What evidence exists that the production of heat is under the control of the nervous system?—*Anatomy*. 1. Describe the steps of the dissection necessary to expose the whole of the external or convex surface of the spleen, without disturbing the relations of the organ. 2. Describe the sternum, defining the exact muscular attachments to it, and the relations of parts in contact with it. Explain how cleft sternum arises. 3. The gluteus medius; state precisely its origin and insertion; its connections and relations; its vascular and nervous supply; and give its actions. 4. Describe the origin, course, and relations of the vertebral artery, and of its branches in the neck. Mention its chief irregularities.

## THE ACME MEDICAL CAR.

SIR,—I should be glad if any member can give me information, based on actual personal experience, respecting the "Acme" medical car, built by Messrs. Harrison and Brass, a drawing of which is shown in the advertising columns of the JOURNAL of April 25th.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

M.R.C.S.

MR. J. F. LEESON, 6, St. Aubyns, West Brighton, requests us to say that if a "Surgeon (Leeds)" will communicate with him regarding massage-treatment, he will be able to forward him the required information.

## A QUESTION OF TREATMENT.

SIR,—Can you or any of your correspondents assist me with the following case?

A young girl, aged 22, otherwise in perfect health, complains of the involuntary passage of most offensive flatus, from which she has suffered for more than one year. She has been under my care for five weeks, and has not improved. During that time, I have tried aperients (podophyllin, sulphate of magnesia, Carlsbad water, and cascara sagrada), acids, and nuxvomica; creasote, capsicum, pancreatin, euonylin, arsenic, and cod-liver oil. Naturally, I have also attended to the hygiene of life, dieting her carefully, and ordering plenty of exercise, sufficiently rigorous to make the skin act freely.

The only time she really improved was when I took her into a home near my house, and placed her under the care of a nurse, who kept her strictly to milk and almost starvation diet, and gave her large injections of soap and water twice daily. I thought it possibly the case was simply one of hysteria, but the ferid odour of the motions after the first two injections proved conclusively that there was something more than mere hysteria.

But what is the something more? Is it deficiency in the secretion of liver or pancreas, causing decomposition of food? Is it some abnormal fermentation of the intestinal secretions? Is it some disordered condition of the blood. I enclose my card, and remain, yours faithfully,

ALPHA.

## SIMULO IN THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY.

In the first number of the *El Boletín Médico*, published at Trujillo, Peru, Dr. Larrea, of Quezada, recommends the treatment of epilepsy by "simulo," which is the fruit of *Capparis coriacea*, a plant indigenous in Peru. Its medicinal properties have long been known to the Indians of the country. Melochara, a conserve made from another plant belonging to the same natural order, is also used in epilepsy. Forty-five grammes of powdered simulo are mixed with 500 grammes of sweet sacramental wine, and of this a wineglassful is to be taken night and morning. He describes the effect of this treatment in his own case. At the age of 13, he had had fourteen epileptic fits, preceded by a distinct aura, but was completely cured by this remedy. Since he has been in practice, he has used it extensively in epilepsy, in hysteria, and in other nervous diseases.

MEMBER.—It is not usual for medical men to charge for attendance on the wife or children of another medical man, unless at the special request of the person

attended; a request, however, the observance of which is sometimes made a condition of accepting such attendance.

## STAMMERING.

A MEMBER OF B.M.A. is referred to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for May 9th, last page.

E. J. G.—We think our correspondent should first ascertain from the gentlemen in question that their names appear in the advertisement with their knowledge and consent.

MR. MASON might bring the particular cases to which he refers under the notice of the Branch.

SIR,—Kindly inform me, in your correspondence-columns, of any reliable way for removing tattoo-marks.—Yours,

M.D. (Liverpool.)

E.C.—By courtesy, an M.B. is often styled Doctor.

L.R.C.P. does not forward his card. The case is one which suggests the propriety of a medical consultation.

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

The Superintendent of the Crystal Palace; Mr. Conner, Manningtree; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Mr. C. T. Griffiths, London; The *Liverpool Journal of Commerce*; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Dr. A. Oakes, London; Dr. Mulville Thomson, London; Dr. A. W. Edis, London; Dr. Sieveking, London; Mr. H. Vane Stoir, London; Mr. M. Greenwood, jun., London; Mr. George A. J. Simpson, London; Dr. W. H. Middleton, Mullingar; Dr. F. Page, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. A. T. Myers, London; Dr. Maxwell, Woolwich; Mr. Thomas Twyford, Hanley; Dr. Sutherland, London; Messrs. C. Griffin and Co., London; Mr. E. M. Shirliff, Kingston-on-Thames; The Secretary of the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men; Dr. B. Foster, Birmingham; Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome, and Co., London; Dr. W. H. Day, London; Dr. W. Jelly, Valencia, Spain; Mr. D. M. Ross, London; Dr. A. W. Russell, Glasgow; The Secretary of St. Thomas's Hospital; The Rev. C. N. Gray, Helmsley; M. Jules Siegfried, Havre; The Honorary Secretary of the British Medical Temperance Association; Mr. T. Nugent Griffith, Birmingham; Mr. Arthur Cooper, London; Mr. J. W. Gandar, London; Mr. R. Thorn, London; Mr. Joseph H. Dant, Valencia; Mr. Leworthy, Shortlands, Kent; Mr. H. A. Fotherby, London; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. W. J. Mackie, Bedford; Dr. T. Savage, Birmingham; Dr. G. A. Gloag, Bristol; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. Keser, London; Mr. Thomas Cragoe, Truro; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. Alfred Smith, Liverpool; Our Berlin Correspondent; Dr. Kelburne King, Hull; The Rev. C. L. Williams, Wolverhampton; Dr. W. Cooper, Aberdeen; Dr. James Stewart, Clifton; Dr. Wyer, Leamington; Mr. C. E. Abbott, Baintree; Mr. T. Holmes, London; Dr. J. W. Watson, Limavady; Mr. A. de Courcy Scanlan, Sandgate; Dr. D. MacAlister, Cambridge; Messrs. Cassell and Co., London; Mr. J. Vesey Fitzgerald, London; Dr. Calantariants, Scarborough; Mr. H. B. Robinson, London; Dr. Deas, Exeter; Mr. Percy Warner, Woodford Green, Essex; Mr. Theodore M. Kendall, Sydney; Dr. Barnardo, London; Dr. J. Strange Biggs, Tooting; Our Paris Correspondent; Mr. E. Crickmay, Laxfield; Dr. E. Paget Thurstan, Southborough; Dr. D. Duncan Main, Hangchow, Shanghai; E. H. M., etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Ambulance Work. By E. Lawton Roberts, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1885.  
A Text-Book of Human Physiology. By Dr. L. Landois and W. Stirling, M.D., D.Sc. Vol. II. London: Griffiths and Co. 1885.  
The Essentials of Histology, Descriptive and Practical, for the Use of Students. By E. A. Schafer, F.R.S. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1885.

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