

RETENTION OF URINE; APPARENTLY HYSTERIC.

SIR.—The following case may be worth recording. On the morning of December 15th, 1885, I was asked to see a young man, aged 21, living a short distance from my house. On my arrival, I was informed that he had not voided urine for four days. On palpating the abdomen, the bladder was found enormously distended, reaching above the umbilicus. I attempted to pass a catheter, but failed, so aspirated, and drew off 164 ounces of urine. A draught of tincture of opium and liquor potassæ was given him, and at my evening visit I was able to pass a No. 10 catheter (English) with ease. A few days afterwards, symptoms of retention occurred again, and, knowing there was no organic lesion, I gave valerian, bromide of potassium, and strychnine, with a perfectly successful result, as the patient made a good recovery. A marked feature in the case was that, until an hour or so before my first visit, the patient complained of no pain.—Yours truly,

The Hermitage, Brynmawr.

G. HENRY BROWNE, L.R.C.P.

ARREST OF DEVELOPMENT IN UTERO.

SIR.—Mrs. G. was delivered, on January 11th, of a healthy living female child at full term; but, on my attention being drawn by the nurse to the latter, I found on examination that the left hand and part of the corresponding forearm were wanting, a stump about an inch and a half long alone remaining, resembling a circular amputation at this part; this consisted of the ulna only, the radius being absent. Can anybody tell me the cause of this freak of Nature? as I believe it is rare.—I am, etc.,

R. TIPPETTS RICHARDSON, M.R.C.S.

Fraughton-on-Severn.

M. GREENWOOD.—J. Vesey Fitzgerald's *Epitome of the Laws affecting Public Health* (Waterlow Brothers); Hime's *Handy Guide to Public Health* (Baillière, Tindall, and Cox), 1884.

MORTALITY FROM ROUND WORMS.

SIR.—The letters which have appeared in your recent issues on mortality from round worms remind me of an experience of my own about ten years ago. I was asked to prescribe for a child who was said to have passed a round worm, and ordered santonine in the usual way, without result. Shortly afterwards, I attended the child through a sharp attack of pneumonia, from which a satisfactory recovery was made. About ten days after my last visit, I was asked for a death-certificate for the child, he having died suddenly. I found on inquiry that he was put to bed in his usual health, but was noticed to be restless about the middle of the night; and, on his father going to him, the child sat up, threw his arms round his father's neck, and fell back dead. On *post mortem* examination, I found the usual signs of death from suffocation, and in the trachea a round worm. In the intestines were eighteen other worms. No worms had passed by bowel from the time of my first attendance to his death, a period of about six weeks.—I remain, yours faithfully,

PHILIP BIRCH.

2, Tretower Road, West Kensington, W.

SIR.—In the *Journal* for January 9th, among the Clinical Memoranda, there is reported a fatal case of convulsions from round worms, in Trinidad. In the sister colony of British Guiana, only about 300 miles off, such cases are not looked upon as curious. Convulsions among children, whether white or coloured, coolie or African, are so common that many parents even do not think it worth while to send for a medical man, and use local worm-remedies, as salt, pink-root, and other supposed remedies. The almost invariable rule among the older practitioners is, in such cases, to administer one to three grains of santonine, with calomel to the same amount, followed by castor-oil four hours afterwards; besides this, the warm bath, with cold applications to the head at the same time; if continuous, blisters to the neck, mustard to the feet, etc. Such was the routine in my hospitals, whether I was called or not, and our results were very satisfactory. In extreme cases, wet packing, that is, wrapping the naked body in a cold water wet sheet and packing in dry ones or blankets, was used. I have tried the bromides, chloral, chloroform, etc., and never found them of much use in such cases.—I remain, yours truly,

Strawberry Dale, Harrogate.

HENRY DALTON, M.D. Edin.

STAMMERING.

SIR.—Can any of your correspondents inform me if there be a professional curer of stammering in London who gives lessons by the hour to patients? No system which professes to cure by correspondence or by manuals can be said to be thoroughly satisfactory, nor is the plan of making an audible note in expiration before each word (Broster's practice, see *JOURNAL*, vol. ii, 1884, p. 644) easy to carry out at home when the patient is a nervous or obstinate youth.—I am, etc.,

DEMOSTHENES.

TREATMENT OF WHOOPING-COUGH.

SIR.—Will some kind brother kindly inform me what is supposed to be the best treatment for pertussis? We have an outbreak in this small town of this disease. I have tried belladonna and the usual old remedies, but they do not seem to do much good.—Yours faithfully,

E. W. P.

RINGWORM OF THE SCALP.

IN reply to "A Member's" inquiry, in the *JOURNAL* of November 7th, Surgeon J. C. BATTERSBY (Trincomalee) suggests a trial of fresh goa-powder, or, better still, chrysophanic acid ointment. For the past few years, Mr. Battersby has successfully used goa-powder and chrysophanic acid ointment in the treatment of parasitic skin-diseases in Ceylon, than which he knows no country for its size where a greater amount and variety of cutaneous affections can be seen, especially among the natives.

CANDIDUS.—Yes: the qualifications are adequate.

PARISIAN.—No lectures on medical subjects are delivered in English in Paris. There are plenty of special courses in French delivered by *agregés* and extra-mural teachers. See students' number of *London Medical Record*.

X. Y. (Lambeth).—The question is and always has been quite open for discussion. It has been prominently raised by Mr. Hutchinson, and we shall be happy to receive any further contributions to a knowledge on the subject.

MR. P. H. EMERSON.—Yes; marked for insertion.

CYMRU.—The *Code of Medical Ethics* is published by Messrs. Churchill, New Burlington Street, London, W.

T. Y. C.—We cannot publish a request of this kind.

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

Dr. J. G. S. Coghill, Ventnor; Mr. W. R. Cook, London; Mr. A. Hamilton, Glasgow; Dr. T. Churton, Leeds; Dr. J. Cameron, Hendon; Mr. F. Mason, Bath; Mr. C. J. Ireland, Tadcaster; Mr. H. Nelson Hardy, London; Mr. Hall, London; Mr. S. Watson, Cottingham; Dr. S. Lockie, Carlisle; Dr. J. J. Bailey, Marple; Mr. T. F. Hopgood, Sunderland; Mr. E. D. Bauer, London; Mr. C. E. Richmond, Warrington; Dr. Blanc, Cannes; Dr. Huggard, Davos Platz; Dr. Dreschfeld, Manchester; The Secretary of the Parkes Museum; Dr. Power, Portsmouth; Mr. F. Vicars, London; Mr. T. M. Stone, Merton; Mr. Scott, Bath; Dr. Tobin, Dublin; Mr. Pearson, Rock Ferry; Dr. W. A. McKeown, Belfast; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Messrs. Grimahli and Co., London; Mr. W. W. Wagstaffe, Sevenoaks; Mr. F. H. Moore, Leicester; Dr. Bowles, Folkestone; Dr. J. Rutherford Morison, Hartlepool; Mr. W. R. Toagh, Durham; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. James Barr, Liverpool; Dr. Garson, London; Messrs. W. Wood and Co., New York; Mr. A. Ambrose, Bournemouth; Mr. C. G. Ethelston, Balham; Dr. W. R. Thomas, Sheffield; Mr. Gurner, London; Dr. W. Moro, London; Mr. H. W. Freeman, Bath; Sir William Mac Cormac, London; Dr. A. T. H. Waters, Liverpool; Dr. T. Maxwell, Woolwich; Miss I. Thorne, Lewes; Mr. E. Edwards, London; Mr. R. Denison Pedley, London; Dr. W. J. Smith, Shipley; Associate; Mr. R. B. Wild, Withington; Dr. A. H. Bampton, Plymouth; Mr. R. Gooding, London; Mr. P. H. Emerson, Southwold; Mr. P. C. T. Symonds, London; Mr. S. B. Nason, Pontypool; Dr. F. W. Pavy, London; Mr. G. Rigden, Canterbury; Dr. William Blackley, Wood Green; Dr. Sidney Martin, London; Mr. William Berry, Wigan; Dr. G. E. Herman, London; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Mr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Dr. W. L. Reid, Glasgow; Mr. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Mr. Alfred Orchard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch; Dr. Lindsay, Belfast; Mr. Thomas Laffan, Cashel; Dr. W. Newman, Stamford; Mr. W. G. Black, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. Fancourt Barnes, London; Dr. Wilks, London; Mr. J. B. Edis, Liverpool; Dr. Kentoul, Liverpool; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; Dr. J. Kent Spender, Bath; Our Cairo Correspondent; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Dr. A. D. Macdonald, Liverpool; Mr. W. T. Jackman, Coggeshall; Mr. W. Adams Frost, London; Dr. Imlach, Liverpool; Dr. J. Tatham, Salford; Mr. H. L. P. Hardy, Kingston-on-Thames; Dr. E. E. Moore, Downpatrick; Mr. S. D. Hine, Ilminster; Mr. A. Campbell Munro, London; Mr. T. R. Atkinson, Madley; The Secretary of the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh; Mr. A. G. R. Foulerton, Ryde; Mr. A. W. Nankivell, Chatham; Mr. J. Bland Sutton, London; Mr. F. W. Lowndes, Liverpool; The Honorary Secretaries of the Epidemiological Society; Mr. B. Given, Edinburgh; E. I. F. M.; Mr. C. D. S. M. Palmer, Buxton; Dr. H. Hornfield, Berlin; Mr. J. F. Bridgwood, Stafford; Dr. Monte, London; Mr. James Manseagh, London; Mr. R. T. Gravely, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Mr. S. Johnson, London; Messrs. A. Essinger and Co., London; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, London; The Secretary of the Clinical Society, London; Mr. W. J. Penny, Clifton; Dr. G. A. Gibson, Edinburgh; Mr. J. P. Maunsell, Derby; Mr. Brown, Bacup; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Mr. J. Startin, London; The Director-General of the Army Medical Department; Messrs. Cleaver and Sons, London; Dr. S. Enkin, London; Dr. S. Norton, Staplehurst; Dr. J. Stuart Nairne, Glasgow; Dr. J. Hutchison, Glasgow; Dr. W. Armstrong, London; Mr. T. S. Watson, St. Helena; Mr. J. Warnock, London; Mr. Cresswell Baler, Brighton; Mr. G. Radcliffe, Leamington; The Secretary of the Social Science Association, London; Mr. George Eastes, London; Mr. J. W. Ekins, Alresford; Dr. A. W. Edis, London; Our Paris Correspondent, etc.

BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Elements of Practical Medicine. By A. H. Carter, M.D. Fourth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1886.

Handbook of the Diseases of the Nervous System. By James Ross, M.D., LL.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

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