

VARIX OF THE VULVA.

R. C. writes: I am inclined to question the advisability of keeping a woman, who is suffering from varix, in bed for two or three months prior to her confinement. The relief gained at the seat of the varix would not be a sufficient compensation for the disturbance set up in the alimentary tract. And again, I think "Inquirens" would find that most of his patients, especially among the poorer classes, would object to the prolonged rest.

Next to "rest" in bed, our professors would tell us that support to the tumour is indicated. In a case which I had a few months ago, I took the elliptical guard which is supplied with the vaginal tube of a Higginson's enema-apparatus, had it well padded with boracic lint (which should be changed frequently), and fastened over the varix, like an ordinary pad for prolapsus uteri. The patient applied this support every morning, and, after using it for two months, said that it had been a great comfort to her, and she could not do without it. She has since been confined, and the varix has disappeared.

A MEMBER would do well to instruct a solicitor to attend before the magistrate in question. A reference to the *Medical Register* would probably be satisfactory.

JUNIOR MEMBER.—The object in view is one with which we fully sympathise, and will keep in view; but we do not think that it can be realised in the precise manner suggested.

J. W. A.—We have made inquiries. It is not published, but probably may be.

MONDAY.—Professor Paul Broca died on July 8th, 1880.

PERMANENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE FACIAL MUSCLES.

F.R.C.S.—The facial muscles could certainly be developed by exercise. Faradisation would be beneficial, should atrophy have occurred, provided that the cause of the atrophy has been removed. Injection of irritants would be quite unjustifiable. It would excite inflammation of the muscle, followed by loss of function and atrophy. Consult Darwin, *On the Expression of the Emotions*.

R.—We regret to say we have no information on the subject.

NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

BAD TIMES.

CANTAB writes:—May I call attention to an injustice to which the profession is liable? At the present time, when everyone feels, to some extent, the existing depression, medical men have in many cases to reduce their fees or make bad debts. Some people, however, who are called upon to reduce their expenditure, think proper to begin by cutting down their doctor's fees. A few days ago, a lady, who attends at my consulting rooms for a special complaint, requested to be seen twice for her usual fee of £1 1s., saying that X, a well-known medical man, who attends Royalty, attended her family for 5s. a visit. I happen to be in a position to make inquiries, and find that she is decidedly wealthy, with town and country establishments, etc., and altogether quite of the last class of person who ought to pay reduced fees. Unless medical men will combine against this form of cheating, rather than compete for the patient, the profession is likely to suffer a great injury.

ASEPTIC CATHETER FOR WASHING OUT THE BLADDER.

MR. W. J. PENNY (Clifton) writes:—In his communication to the *JOURNAL* of March 13th, Dr. Foulis very candidly admits the point to which I called attention on February 27th, that his "apparatus does not entirely guard against the admission of air, which may enter the bladder when urine ceases to pass from the end of the instrument, before the tap, allowing the antiseptic solution to flow, is turned on."

If we could trust our patients not to cough, or sneeze, or forcibly strain with sudden relaxation, the simplest appliance, an ordinary catheter and a syringe, would be sufficient to prevent the entrance of air into the bladder; but, as I implied in my last letter, the elaborate apparatus, devised by Dr. Foulis, does not guard against such accidents, and therefore is very little better.

The double-current catheter, with siphon apparatus attached to one orifice, more effectually guards against such accidents. If the patient cough, the urine is ejected from one orifice; and, on relaxation of the pressure, the antiseptic fluid takes its place, without fear of air entering the bladder at the same time.

If Dr. Foulis will experiment with an accurately fitting plug, or press his finger firmly on the orifice, he will find that the fluid does not escape from the closed pipette catheter.

There is no necessity "to bend the catheter on itself, or move it about, or turn it upside down," at any rate, until it is in the urethra; and then, if the plug fit accurately, there is no danger of air, laden with mucus, entering the instrument.

Dr. Foulis and his friends are fortunate in possessing patients who are not easily alarmed at elaborate appliances.

MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS.

MR. A. LEDLIE (Belfast) writes: About three years ago, I was summoned to see a child that had fallen to the pavement from a window upstairs. The child recovered. About ten months afterwards, I was again summoned to see another child, then about three months old, in a house just opposite that from the window of which the child had fallen. I found this child the subject of very pronounced double congenital talipes equino-varus. The mother (unquestioned) told me that she had seen the child fall from the window, and that, from that moment, she "knew something would be wrong" with her child.

DR. JAMES BRYDON (Hawick) relates the following case. A short time ago, I attended Mrs. C. during her second confinement. After the child was born, the common question, Is it all right? was asked by the mother, and answered in the affirmative. Presently, the nurse discovered that the great toe of the right foot was entirely wanting. The mother then related that, when she was in her fourth month of pregnancy, she dreamed that a rat had bitten off her corresponding toe; and so vivid was the impression that she awoke screaming, and narrated the cause of her fright to her husband, who corroborated her statement. The veracity of both parties is unimpeachable.

THE LATE DR. STORRAR.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that Dr. STORRAR was not the first chairman of the Convocation of London University. His predecessor in that office was Dr. C. J. Foster, who was chairman from 1858 to 1863.

DR. R. S. ARCHER (Liverpool) is referred to the standing notice. We regret to be unable to make special conditions.

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

Mr. J. W. Greenwood, Hanley; Mr. S. Wilson, London; Mr. T. E. Perks, Nutfield; Monday; Dr. Haughton, Upper Norwood; Dr. Willoughby, London; Dr. Mackenzie, Glossop; Dr. W. E. Steavenson, London; Dr. Taylor, Anerley; Mr. H. Welch, Blackpool; The Secretary of the Parkes Museum; Mr. J. B. Kenny, Killashandra, County Cavan; Mr. W. E. Davidson, London; Miss Whitehead, South Stockton; F.R.C.S.; Dr. T. D. Acland, London; Mr. E. F. S. Green, London; Dr. Joseph Coats, Glasgow; Dr. A. W. Edis, London; Mr. W. H. Date, Moseley; Dr. W. Osler, Philadelphia; Mr. W. Cox, Cheltenham; Dr. A. Money, London; Dr. H. Payne, Ashton-under-Lyne; Mr. J. B. Haycraft, Birmingham; Dr. B. Foster, Birmingham; Dr. Meadows, London; Mr. R. S. Archer, Liverpool; Dr. T. R. Bradshaw, Liverpool; Mr. M. N. Gandevia, Bournemouth; Dr. A. Stewart, Manchester; Messrs. J. Brainsby and Sons, Peterborough; Dr. Brady, Sunderland; Mr. W. J. Rhodes, Glossop; Dr. F. M. Pierce, Manchester; Mr. Robert Bowen, Wellington; Dr. A. Hill, Cambridge; A Hospital Physician; Mr. Gubb, London; Mr. S. Wilson Hope, Petworth; Mr. J. A. Douglas, Loughbrickland; Mr. J. T. Neech, Oswestry; Dr. Patrick Hehir, London; Dr. Hitchcock, Bournemouth; Mr. W. E. Sacker, London; Mr. F. E. H. Daunt, Dublin; Mr. T. N. Nash, Dublin; Dr. Gowan, Newtown; Dr. Macleod, Beverley; Mr. T. A. Collinson, Chester-le-Street; Mr. Chauncey Puzey, Liverpool; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Mr. R. Kershaw, London; Mr. J. W. Taylor, Birmingham; Dr. Grant Bey, Cairo; Mr. W. F. Haslam, Birmingham; Mr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Dr. Mickle, London; Dr. Schnee, Nice; Dr. Maxwell, Woolwich; Mr. D. De Berdt Hovell, London; Dr. F. Fitch, Kidderminster; Dr. S. Martin, London; Dr. E. H. Jacob, Leeds; Sir Edmund Lechmere, London; Dr. Abrath, Sunderland; Mr. H. Percy Dunn, London; Mr. W. Martindale, London; Mr. H. Behrend, London; Dr. R. Barnes, London; Dr. Tatham, Wigan; Dr. Alder Smith, London; Mr. J. Whitehouse, Sunderland; Dr. D. Williams, London; Mr. E. White Wallis, London; Dr. Norry, London; Mr. J. G. Clendinning, Coseley; Dr. W. G. Baeot, Blandford; Mr. P. H. Squire, London; Mr. J. Coury, Kilkenny; Dr. W. A. Brailly, London; Dr. J. K. Spender, Bath; Dr. R. Wade Savage, London; Observer; Dr. C. J. Renshaw, Ashton-upon-Mersey; A.; Mr. Hugh Thomas, Birmingham; Mr. G. Jackson, Plymouth; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Dr. Styrup, Shrewsbury; Dr. Tatham, Salford; M.R.C.S.; Mr. George Weller, Wansstead; Dr. J. A. Lindsay, Belfast; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Mr. William Halgood, London; Dr. G. Vincent, Manchester; Messrs. Curtis and Henson, London; Dr. Wood, Bromsgrove; Dr. C. R. Illingworth, Accrington; Tarsus; Mr. J. Cronin, Cork; Mr. C. E. Humphreys, Llanfair; Dr. Thiele, Chatham; Dr. Irvine K. Reid, London; Mr. T. M. Evans, Hull; Mr. J. Deans, Bournemouth; Mr. J. Raby, Totnes; Mr. H. Howgrave Graham, London; Mr. W. Perkins, Glastonbury; Dr. Steele, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. Nankivell, Chatham; Dr. Ashby, Manchester; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. W. E. Scott, London; Dr. G. W. Thompson, Ballaghy; Mr. T. D. Ransford, Bath; Dr. James Morton, Glasgow; Mr. William Elder, Kirkcaldy; Mr. B. A. Daniell, Aberavon, Talbach; Mr. F. A. Floyer, London; Secretary Westminster Sanitary Aid Association; Mr. F. L. Richardson, Rhayader; Dr. R. L. Moorhead, Carrington; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Salammbô, of Flaubert: Englished by M. French Sheldon. London: Saxon and Co. 1886.

St. Thomas's Hospital Reports for 1884. New Series. Vol. XIV. Edited by Dr. Seymour J. Sharkey, and Mr. Francis Mason. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.

Representative Men and English Traits. By Ralph Waldo Emerson. Edited by G. T. Bettany. London: Ward, Lock and Co. 1886.

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