

FOREIGN DEGREES AND THE MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

DR. H. J. HARDWICK (Sheffield) writes: Permit me to call the attention of the profession, and especially holders of foreign degrees, to the unsatisfactory nature of the proposed Medical Bill as regards the admission of foreign degrees to the *Register*. It is proposed to admit to the *Register* only foreign degrees which grant the right to practise in their respective countries. This, Sir, will be a great injustice to all holders of German, Dutch, Swiss, and Brussels degrees, which are quite as honourable as those of America, France, Austria, and Italy, although they do not grant a licence to practise, the State Boards performing this function in Holland, Germany, and Switzerland. The precaution of admitting to the *Register* only such degrees as are licences to practise, may be an useful one for future purposes, but it must necessarily entail serious injustice to those who have obtained foreign degrees in the past. To admit an American M.D. to the *Register*, and to refuse a Berlin M.D., will be to bring social obloquy upon the holder of the latter, perhaps even amounting to professional ruin; for the unthinking public will naturally believe that the State recognises the one, and rejects the other as a fraud. Surely, the least the Government can do is to register all existing foreign degrees, properly acquired by already registered practitioners. This would not be granting the licence to practise to men who hold such degrees, for their British diplomas give them already that privilege; it would be merely protecting them from grave injustice and annoyance, and serious professional loss.

SALICYLATE OF SODA IN TINEA.

DR. E. G. WAKE has been very successful in the treatment of tinea tonsurans by an ointment of salicylate of soda. He does not use it when the disease first appears, because the application of liquor epilepticus seems never to fail; but when the patch has spread, he can find no remedy that gives such pleasing results as the salicylate of soda.

THE VOICE AS A STRINGED INSTRUMENT.

MR. CHARLES LUNN writes: It is gratifying to find, in Dr. Grant, one gentleman willing to admit that an instrument created by Nature is greater than those instruments fabricated by man.

Mr. Lennox Browne says: "It is almost unnecessary to say that tone cannot be directed in the fashion here suggested upon any given point, like a jet of water out of a fire engine." Why, then, do seamen use speaking-trumpets? Again, he says: "The vocal ligaments meet before the air has time to meet them." What created the vacuum? Then, again, he says: "If you have a feeling as though it went away from you, and you had to run after it to catch it, it will never be a 'telling' tone."

In 1873, I wrote the original of this: "In false emission, it is not so; the point of resistance breaking loose makes him feel as though he were running after a note to catch it." I did not write of present feelings of a past act in relation to the future, but I wrote of a present feeling during false production of voice.

Mr. Browne, by his support of what the late Mr. Maas, Mr. Maccabe, and others call the "Cuckoo" system, has done incalculable mischief to the art of voice-training.

DR. GREVILLE MACDONALD (Throat Hospital) writes: In the discussion on this subject, the disputants appear to have lost sight of an important point. The essential difference between a string and a reed in the production of a musical note is, that the former continues to generate aerial vibrations after the initial force has ceased to act, while the latter vibrates only so long as the air is forcing its way through the aperture.

A note produced by the vocal cords stops immediately the blast of air is checked; whereas, if the human voice were a stringed instrument, the cords would, or at least could, continue to vibrate after the expiration had ceased. Even laryngoscopic examination, I imagine, will not demonstrate the possibility of this.

Let Mr. Stoker obtain an ox's larynx, and attempt in any way, other than by a continued blast of air through the trachea, to set the vocal cords in vibration. If, for instance, by twanging one of them, he can produce a musical note, I will consider his argument substantiated.

As for the production of *portamento* notes enhancing the value of Mr. Stoker's theory, let me ask whether the human whistle resembles most a stringed instrument, seeing that it too will emit *portamento* gradations. Moreover, it is quite beyond the facts of acoustics that a string, an inch or so in length, could generate notes extending over two octaves, except, perhaps, by such an amount of tightening as would infallibly rupture the vocal cords.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD LYMPH.

J. B. G. agrees with "Nemo" that the Local Government Board lymph is most uncertain. On several occasions, it has proved quite inert; and he prefers to use lymph which he has had stored for six months, and which he never finds to fail. He suspects that it is diluted with glycerine, or something of the kind.

HIBERNIA quite agrees with "Nemo's" letter, as to the worthlessness of the Local Government Board's vaccine-lymph. He now advises his patients to procure some calf-lymph themselves, and tells them that the resulting action will probably be more severe, but that this will be more satisfactory than having to re-vaccinate two or three times.

He thinks that the subject is serious, for if, on vaccinating a child three times, we give a certificate of insusceptibility, we have no moral grounds for so doing, if the lymph be, as of late it has been, entirely worthless. In two cases lately, he unsuccessfully vaccinated children twice with lymph from the above institution. Upon obtaining some tubes from a brother-practitioner in the country, he succeeded.

M. PASTEUR'S RESEARCHES.

THE following corrections require to be made in Part IV of M. Vignal's Report on M. Pasteur's Researches. They came too late to be made in the *JOURNAL* of May 1st. Page 809, column 1, line 31 from bottom, for "veal-broth," read "chicken-broth;" lines 22 and 23 from bottom, omit "A portion of its fur is cut away from its head," and insert "Chloroform is administered, and" line 13 from bottom, after "sutures," add "The whole operation is effected in ten minutes;" lines 2 and 8 from bottom, for "antiseptic fluids cannot," read "only a few drops of antiseptic fluid can." Column 2, in description of figure, add "M. Pasteur now only puts a plug of sterilised wool." Page 810, column 1, line 49, for "Biragulzevic," read "Biragulzevic;" and omit "nearly." Page 811, column 1, line 17 from bottom, for "Desbous," read "Duboué." Column 2, last paragraph but one, last line but one, omit "unless coloured."

ON ALCOHOL FOR THE MEDICAL STAFF.

MR. GEORGE STURGE writes:—The public attention has lately been called to the distress of King's College Hospital, and a writer in the *Philanthropist* gives a list of hospitals deeply in debt, from £5,000 to £8,000 each, and seems to think it is attributable to commercial and agricultural depression. To a certain extent he is likely to be correct, but, probably, there are other causes silently operating. In many hospitals, a large portion of the wine, spirits, and beer supplied, is supplied to the medical staff and attendants. Thus, part of the money subscribed for the sick and suffering is spent on alcohol for the medical staff. In this way, in 1884, £218 13s. 7d. was spent in a London hospital; and at Barnesley, Yorkshire, more was spent on the staff than on patients. Most subscribers will, I think, agree that this is wrong and discreditable, and it will be no wonder, while it exists, they do not subscribe freely.

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

Mr. T. J. Verrall, Brighton; Mr. T. F. Raven, Broadstairs; Mr. C. B. Gabb, Hastings; Dr. H. Snow, London; Mr. R. D. Pedley, London; Dr. A. Hill, Cambridge; Surgeon H. Hathaway, Calicut, India; Mr. J. E. Lane, London; Dr. W. Clibborn, Bridport; Mr. T. G. Lithgow, Farnborough; Dr. J. L. Andrew, Moseley; Mr. F. Bennett, Birmingham; Dr. A. Stewart, Pendleton; Mr. E. McGrath, Gipsy Hill; Mr. J. R. Irwin, Whitehaven; Mr. F. E. Lovegrove, Nottingham; Dr. T. N. Orchard, Pendleton; Mr. T. Smalles, Honley; Mr. W. Berry, Wigan; Secretary Obstetrical Society, London; Dr. Hughes Bennett, London; Mr. A. J. Campbell, West Boldon; Mr. G. Kerbey, London; Dr. Mackenzie, Glossop; Mr. R. C. Chicken, Nottingham; Mr. H. L. Wallis, London; Dr. W. A. Duncan, London; Dr. L. A. Sayre, New York; Dr. Edge, Manchester; Mr. J. E. Edwards, Chester; Dr. E. T. Tomlinson, Southsea; Messrs Gilson and Co., Gosport; Dr. F. C. Reeve, Ohio, U.S.A.; Mr. J. E. Gemmell, Liverpool; Mr. C. G. Ethelson, Balham; Dr. H. S. Purdon, Belfast; Dr. W. Thornton Parker, Newport, U.S.; M.B.; Mr. E. Nettleship, London; Dr. W. Hale White, London; Honorary Secretary of the Trained Nurses Annuity Fund; Messrs. Thompson and Ritchie, London; Dr. Sutherland, London; Mr. Gurner, London; Dr. J. A. Lindsay, Belfast; Mr. A. E. Weightman, London; Mr. F. Craddock Palmer, Chalford; Dr. J. Phillips, London; Dr. Burnet, London; Mr. J. Charlebois, Joliette, Canada; Mr. A. B. Simpson, Birmingham; Mr. R. Batten, Gloucester; Honorary Secretary of the Harveian Society of London; Dr. G. Beaton, Glasgow; Mr. G. H. Pinder Broughton; Mr. R. Clement Lucas, London; Mr. H. P. Dunn, London; Mr. G. Stillingfleet Johnson, London; Secretary of the Local Government Board, London; Mr. W. Hind, Stoke-on-Trent; Dr. Cranston Charles, London; Mr. J. R. Philpots, Birkenhead; Mr. C. E. Shelly, Hertford; Mr. R. Oswald, London; Mr. T. Crewe, Manchester; Mr. T. Taylor, Braintree; Dr. Ward Cousins, Southsea; Dr. J. B. Gilbertson, Preston; Messrs. C and F. M. Palmer, Buxton; Dr. Bailey, Marple; Lady Wilson, Westgate-on-Sea; Mr. W. Adams Frost, London; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. J. Dixon, Dorking; Dr. W. William Mold, North Wales; Mr. G. H. Leach, London; Mr. Fitzgerald, Birmingham; Mr. W. J. Stevens, Brighton; Dr. W. Campbell, Liverpool; Mr. E. J. Carver, London; Mr. J. A. Price, Reading; Mr. W. C. Bull, London; Mr. L. Jeffery, Eastbourne; Messrs. N. C. Duffy and Son, London; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Dr. W. R. Grove, St. Ives; Dr. W. Collier, Oxford; Mr. A. Wigglesworth, Liverpool; Mr. C. Norman, Mougahan; Mr. E. T. Frier, Birmingham; Mr. F. H. Davis, Dawley; Mr. S. A. Luc, Liverpool; Dr. Tatham, Salford; Dr. J. Cameron, Hendon; Dr. B. Foster, Birmingham; Mr. E. Cresswell Baber, Brighton; Dr. Hardwicke, Sheffield; Dr. J. Utken, Rome; Dr. Lush, Weymouth; Dr. H. I. Fotherby, London; Mr. C. S. Koch, London; Mr. T. Ryan, London; Mr. Romeike, London; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Mr. Cadge, Norwich, etc.

BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

What is Consumption? By G. W. Hambleton, L.K.Q.C.P.I. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

Notes on Analytical Chemistry, for Students of Medicine. By Albert J. Bernays, Ph.D., F.C.S., F.I.C. Second Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL."

Seven lines and under	60	3	6
Each additional line	0	0	4
A whole column	1	15	0
A page	5	0	0

An average line contains eight words.

When a series of insertions of the same advertisement is ordered, a discount is made on the above scale in the following proportions, beyond which no reduction can be allowed.

For 6 insertions, a deduction of	10 per cent.
" 12 or 13 "	20 "
" 26 "	25 "
" 52 "	30 "

For these terms, the series must, in each case, be completed within twelve months from the date of first insertion.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, at the Office, not later than noon on the Wednesday preceding publication; and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association, at the West Central Post-Office, High Holborn. Small amounts may be paid in postage-stamps.