

## A FOREIGN M.D. DEGREE.

A YANKEE M.D. writes: All candidates for the degree in the United States must have attended two full courses of lectures of the ordinary seven branches, the last course at the College in which he wishes to graduate—the course to be at least of twenty weeks' duration. Most of the schools, I believe, would allow "Associate," being registered in this country, to go up for the examination only. Our correspondent would be happy to give any further information he might wish.

DR. W. H. WALTER (South Petherton).—See BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 29th, page 1017.

## SIR CHARLES SCUDAMORE.

MR. PUGIN THORNTON (Canterbury) writes: Through the kindness of Mrs. Scudamore, living in this neighbourhood, I am able to inform your correspondent, Dr. J. A. Hunter (190, Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana), that there is an oil painting, and also a very beautiful miniature, of Sir Charles Scudamore, of either of which your correspondent could probably secure copies, if he applied to the Rev. J. G. Scudamore, Ditchingham Rectory, Bungay.

## OBSTINATE EPISTAXIS.

A MEMBER suggests the use of dry tannic acid as a snuff frequently during the day. It can be easily carried about the person, and, if necessary, may even be scented. He prefers it to gallic acid, as he finds it less irritating, and he fancies more effective. In addition, occasional douching with a cold solution of boracic acid (five grains to the ounce), should be employed.

## EXCESSIVE PERSPIRATION OF HANDS.

G. W. writes that washing with a saturated solution of boracic acid is extremely effective in many cases.

## NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

## BROMIDROSIS PEDUM TREATED BY SUBNITRATE OF BISMUTH.

EXCESSIVE perspiration of the feet, which, in some persons, by its decomposition and consequent offensiveness, amounts to a positive infirmity, is easily cured by rubbing the offending members with subnitrate of bismuth in an impalpable powder. The action of the powder appears to be quite local, but it has a decided effect on the integument, rendering it more supple and less liable to ex-cori-ation. Even where the application does not arrest the excessive perspiration, it deprives it of any offensive attributes, and thus relieves it of its most distressing feature.

## ALCOHOL FOR THE MEDICAL STAFF.

MR. G. STURGE (Sydenham Hill Road) writes: In the JOURNAL of May 29th, Dr. M. T. Sadler complains of the Barnsley Hospital being singled out for its excessive use of alcohol. I believe there are several other hospitals which are still greater offenders; and that it is a great abuse for the hospitals to spend charity money in alcoholic luxury for the medical staff. In my table, it appears, in 1884, 8s. 4d. per patient was spent on alcohol. The medical officer was offended, and wrote a public letter saying only 1s. 7d. was spent per patient. I therefore concluded 1s. 9d. was spent on the medical staff.

## FORMATION OF DENTAL TARTAR AND CALCULI.

MR. R. CROSER (Newcastle-on-Tyne) writes: Your Paris correspondent reports, in the JOURNAL of March 20th, on a communication regarding the formation of dental tartar and calculi, of M. Galippe to the Biological Society. M. Galippe believes these formations to be the result of the agency of micro-organisms. I have observed that bacteria do sometimes engage in the formation of hard, apparently calcareous, masses. Just before Christmas, I noticed, in a flask (plugged with cotton-wool, and containing blood coagulated by heat), which had been set aside nine months before, on the surface of the culture-ground, a round, grey bead. This was very hard, and with difficulty crushed. Microscopic examination of a fragment revealed innumerable quiescent bacteria. The rest of the culture-ground contained many bacteria, actively mobile.

A few days ago, I examined some flasks which had been prepared seven months previously. These flasks had been originally intended for some experiments, but had, for various reasons, been rejected as useless. Only three had been perfectly sterilised. Two only, out of more than a dozen flasks, presented appearances at all similar to those already observed. In one flask, the surface of the coagulated blood was covered with many little white, irregularly rounded elevations. Many of these felt like little pieces of necrosed bone; others were soft. In the other flask, containing coagulated yolk of egg, were several round, yellow nodules, of the same consistency as those in the first flask. Both concretions had the same microscopic appearance; innumerable quiescent bacteria, granular matter, and needle-shaped crystals. Both flasks had many active bacteria. The blood was not blackened, but had a faint, not disagreeable odour; the yolk had the smell of cheese. The "concretions" were insoluble in alcohol, chloroform, and ammonium hydrate, soluble in hydrochloric acid. Their base was calcium, at least in part.

## IODIDE OF SODIUM VERSUS IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.

DR. E. BUCKNILL (Rawtenstall) writes:—In reading your leading article of April 17th on the above subject, I think the following remarks with regard to iodide of sodium, made by Dr. Ubaldo Daveri, physician of the hospital of St. Orsola, in Bologna, and published in the *Chimist*, from the *Correspondenza Scientifica di Roma*, No. xxxii, 1882, may be read with some interest.

1. Soda being a common ingredient in our organisation, the iodide of its base seems best suited to the human system.

2. The taste of the iodide of sodium is less disagreeable than that of iodide of potassium.

3. It is less likely to occasion iodism.

4. It is better borne than the potassium-salt, and, in consequence, its dose can be almost daily increased; it thus becomes a more efficient remedy.

5. It has sometimes succeeded where iodide of potassium has failed.

6. We may commence by giving daily, in three equal doses, a scruple of this salt, dissolved in three ounces of distilled water, increasing the strength of the solution every two or three days by six grains. Some patients have in this way been able to take two drachms a day, without suffering the slightest inconvenience.

7. The iodide of sodium is admirably adapted to cases in which the corresponding salt of potassium is indicated.

8. The iodide of sodium is the best substitute for mercury.

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

Dr. Henry Savage, London; Dr. G. J. Robertson, Oldham; An Occasional Correspondent, Philadelphia; Mr. J. Lewis, Birmingham; Mr. W. Donovan, Birmingham; Dr. F. Troup, Edinburgh; Mr. F. W. Lowndes, Liverpool; Professor Aitken, Woolston; Dr. Beaven Rake, Trinidad; Dr. Ashby, Manchester; Dr. A. H. Benson, Dublin; The Secretary of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association; Mr. George Sturge, London; Surgeon-General Moore, Bombay; Qualified Assistant; Mr. J. Alcock, Burslem; Dr. A. Sheen, Cardiff; Messrs. Verey and Co., London; M.D., F.R.C.S.; Mr. T. Duke, Rugby; R. H. F.; Mr. Dennis, Mistley, Essex; Surgeon-Major MacCormack, London; Dr. George Elder, Nottingham; Mr. J. E. Nicholson, Gibraltar; Messrs. Plon and Co., Paris; Sir Edmund Lechmere, London; Mr. V. A. Latham, Manchester; Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, London; Professor J. Hirschberg, Berlin; Mr. O. R. P. Owen, Bala; Dr. M. Howard, Oldham; H. S.; Dr. W. H. Walter, South Petherton; Mr. J. Laird, Sligo; Dr. J. A. Ross, London; Dr. Fisher, London; A Member, York; Dr. Kerr, London; Dr. Savage, Birmingham; Mr. W. Roger Williams, London; Mr. T. F. Pink, London; Mr. E. Hurry Fenwick, London; Mr. J. Warnock, Paris; Dr. Hack Tuke, London; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. William Grant, London; Mr. A. E. Barker, London; Mr. James Gairdner, Crief, N.B.; Mr. J. T. James, Corris; Dr. Maxwell, Woolwich; Dr. A. M. Edge, Manchester; Mr. H. Atteus, Graz, Styria; Dr. Mulligan, Aberystychan; Miss B. A. Smith, Scarborough; Mr. J. A. Johnson, Leicester; Mr. E. Pilkington, Sunderland; Dr. Glascott, Manchester; Messrs. Gibson and Co., London; Mr. E. P. Hardey, Hull; Dr. C. J. Cullingworth, Manchester; Mr. J. Chester, London; Dr. Myrtle, Harrogate; Mr. W. E. Sacker, London; Messrs. Street and Co., London; Dr. G. Lorimer, Buxton; Mr. G. Cowen, Malmesbury; Dr. Bond, Gloucester; Mr. J. Vesey Fitzgerald, London; Mr. W. Williams, Llanfair-Talhaiarn, Abergale; Dr. J. Murphy, Sunderland; Mr. Sykes, Mexborough; Dr. Brown, West Smethwick, near Birmingham; Dr. Mackey, Brighton; Mr. R. P. Bond, Cheltenham; Miss Mary Topham, Stoke-on-Trent; Dr. C. S. Taylor, London; Dr. Hayes, Dublin; Assistant; Dr. C. Haig Brown, Godalming; Mrs. Gillespie, Dublin; Dr. O'Neill, Belfast; Mr. A. D. Macgregor, Kirkcaldy; Mr. E. M. C. Hooker, Retford; Dr. Broadbent, London; Mr. A. Thomas, Wellingborough; Dr. Markham Skerritt, Bristol; Mr. Thomas Aitken, Inverness; Dr. Stevenson, London; Surgeon-Major Platt, London; Mr. C. Clay, Fovant; Mr. J. Muir Howell, Liverpool; Dr. Bernays, Birmingham; Mr. Walters, Reigate; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Miss Thomas, London; Dr. J. J. Ridge, Enfield; Dr. Currow, London; Our Paris Correspondent; Mr. A. Walter Thomas, Bangor; Dr. McAlldowie, Stoke-on-Trent; Mr. Barlow, Colwyn Bay; Dr. A. H. Carter, Birmingham; Dr. Nicolson, Broadmoor; Mr. A. Stookes, Liverpool; Dr. Aitken, Rome; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Mr. St. Vincent Mercier, London; Dr. W. J. Tyson, Folkestone; Dr. Tatham, Salford; Mr. S. Smelt, Manchester; Mr. H. A. Latimer, Swansea; Dr. Bolt, London, etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Conference on Temperance Legislation. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1886.

Transactions of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1886.

John Leech's Pictures of Life and Character, from the collection of Mr. Punch. London: Bradbury, Agnew, and Co. 1886.

The Medical Annual, 1885-6. London: H. Kimpton. 1886.

Microparasites in Disease. Select Essays by Watson Cheyne, M.B., F.R.C.S. London: New Sydenham Society. 1886.

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