

matter with him, although the dressing was still on. Several of the stitches were deep, but not one had to be removed; all were found adhering to the wool when peeled off. The same method may also be applied to an abrasion. However sharp the pain at the time, it will cease directly the collodion is dry. If done quickly and evenly, the wool will adhere until quite healed. In erysipelas of the face, I have found nothing equal to collodion, either with a few grains of nitrate of silver, or without, according to the case. Adhesive plaster applied to cuts or such wounds of face, hands, or exposed part of the body, is simply barbarism, and the result nothing equal to a dressing of collodion and wool.

DR. F. CHURCHILL writes: Referring to Dr. Spender's remarks upon this subject, I should like to say that the best way to avoid ugly scars in these cases, as also the pain of passing the suture-needle, is to clamp together the edges of the wound with a very fine steel pin, and then to apply a spiral silk thread over and under the pin, so as to keep up the compression, restrain hæmorrhage, and approximate the deeper tissues. The scar-tissue will then be reduced to a minimum, and there will be no "cross-scars" caused by the grip of the ligature.

A. L. EVANS, L.R.C.P. (Hawarden).—We are obliged to you for a copy of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for April 19th, 1884, which has been forwarded to the College of Surgeons' Library, for which it was needed.

#### THE RIDDELL FUND.

|   | £  | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| Amount already acknowledged ..  | 33 | 14 | 6  |
| R. T. Davison, Esq., Newburn-on-Tyne ..   | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| C. T. Brookhouse, Esq., M.D., Brockley ..   | 1  | 1  | 0  |
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| W. Collier, Esq., M.A. Cantab., M.D., Oxford ..   | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| H. W. Furnivall, Esq., Exeter ..  | 0  | 10 | 0  |
| Collected by Dr. Woodman, Exeter:   |    |    |    |
| The Earl of Devon ..  | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| The Honourable and Rev. H. H. Courtenay, Chairman of St. Thomas's Board of Guardians .. | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| A. H. A. Hamilton, Esq., J.P. ..  | 2  | 0  | 0  |
| A. Steele Perkins, Esq., Exeter ..  | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| A Lady, ..  | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| J. C., ..   | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| P. A., ..   | 0  | 10 | 0  |
| Mrs. Henry Ward, ..   | 0  | 10 | 0  |
| John Mortimer, Esq., M.B., ..   | 0  | 10 | 6  |
| G. Foster, Esq., Exmouth ..   | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| John Elliot, Esq., Kingsbridge ..   | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| R. Walker, Esq., M.D., Budleigh-Salterton ..  | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| T. F. M., ..  | 0  | 2  | 6  |

Mr. Wickham Barnes, 3, Bolt Court, Fleet Street, wishes to inform intending subscribers to this Fund that the list will close on January 19th.

#### AN APPEAL.

MR. W. HOWARD CORY (The Avenue, Redland Road, Bristol).—The appeal in question should be addressed to a local newspaper rather than to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

#### POISONED SANDWICHES.

A SINGULAR case of poisoning occurred recently at Sydney. A hotel proprietor, named Uhde, being troubled with the presence of rats in his house, which he sought to exterminate, spread some poison known as "Rough on Rats" on some sandwiches. Being called to another part of the house, he left the poisoned sandwiches in a room where several of his customers were sitting, enjoining on them, however, not to touch them as they were poisoned. Returning a little later, a Mr. Berndt, a merchant, one of the number, informed him that he had eaten some of the sandwiches, believing that the warning was not meant seriously. The unfortunate man at once took an emetic, and, after vomiting, retired to bed. During the night, however, he became worse, Dr. Wright was called in, remedial measures were taken, but, in spite of all treatment, the deceased expired on the following morning. The deceased was 30 years of age.

#### UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS AND THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

H. C. writes: As an unqualified man, may I be allowed to add my word on the subject of such vital importance to myself, and hundreds of others in a similar position, relative to the rendering illegal the employment of unqualified assistants. Surely this is not the time to add to the distress and the cries of the "unemployed" throughout the land. Personally (and I am sure mine is a parallel case with dozens more), I served an apprenticeship in a practice, where I saw much work and gained a large amount of experience. Lack of funds prevented me attending lectures and qualifying. I have been engaged as an assistant for the last few years, my work always being under the supervision of my principal. Are we, then, to be thrown on the mercy of the world with scarcely a warning word? I feel sure that the majority of practitioners would prefer an assistant who, by years of labour, has acquired a practical knowledge of his work to a young newly-fledged qualified man, whom they would be obliged really to teach and break-in to the routine of the surgery before he could be of any use. I am confident, also, that they would not wish the old custom of employing an unqualified man to do the surgery work, visit the chronic cases, etc., under their own personal supervision, and attend the ordinary confinements, to be suddenly discontinued by one sweeping reform.

I would advise the calling of a meeting of unqualified men to consider the best means of keeping their homes from ruin and misery, and to state the case plainly to the Medical Council, pointing out to them the misery and poverty they will entail on many a married man and his family, and also on unmarried men who have nothing to depend on but their salaries derived from their assistantships, and who are too old to begin life again in some other profession or business. Surely something can be done to avert this calamity. Why not let every man, before he can become an assistant, serve a moderately long apprenticeship, and then register his name? Or let all who are now assistants register their names, and allow no others to become assistants (without qualifying). By this means, if the Council are determined to put a stop to the employment of unqualified help, it would be done by degrees, but not in such a sweeping manner. I trust some early steps will be taken by the unqualified men to keep themselves, and those who have wives and families dependent upon them, from the workhouse.

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

Mr. G. Brown, London; Mr. W. Howard Cory, Bristol; Dr. F. Churchill, London; Mr. J. Whitehouse, Sunderland; Mr. M. Thomson, Boxmoor; Dr. Ward, Blyth; Mr. Brierley, Tattenhall; Mr. A. L. Evans, Hawarden; Dr. R. J. Purdon, Belfast; Mr. S. Murphy, London; Mr. R. Freeman, London; Dr. J. J. Ridge, Enfield; Messrs. J. Wright and Co., Bristol; Mr. D. Davis, Buitth; Dr. J. Mackenzie Booth, Aberdeen; Mr. G. E. Douglas, London; Mr. J. West, London; Mr. H. Collins, London; Mr. J. G. Bingham, Alfreton; Dr. J. Langdon Down, London; Dr. J. J. M. Dunbar, London; Mr. F. Shapley, Sidcup; Mr. Laurence Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. E. Charles, Rome; Dr. C. Roy, Cambridge; Mr. J. Jenkin Lloyd, Llanelly; Mr. W. C. Garman, Wednesbury; Dr. Rossiter, Weston-super-Mare; Mr. G. A. Blake, Dublin; Mr. S. Plowman, London; Mr. Lewis W. Reynolds, High Wycombe; Mr. P. B. T. Stubbs, Canonbury; Mr. E. C. Cripps, Cirencester; Mr. C. Atkin, Sheffield; Dr. Ward Cousins, Southsea; Mr. W. A. H. Barrett, Littleport; Mr. E. C. Bigger, Belfast; Dr. Wiglesworth, Rainhill; Mr. G. Cooke, London; Dr. G. Harley, London; Dr. Percy Boulton, London; Dr. G. Mundie, Canterbury; Dr. C. C. Spitzka, New York; Dr. Barnardo, London; Mr. G. E. Musket, Sydney; Mr. Douse, London; Dr. Jeffreys, Chesterfield; Dr. Huggard, Davos Platz; Dr. T. Churton, Leeds; Mr. C. E. Lajons, Philadelphia; Messrs. Evans, Sons, and Co., Liverpool; Mr. W. E. Porter, Lindfield; Mr. B. Rolston, Armagh; Dr. Corry, Belfast; Dr. Jameson, Edinburgh; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. Parsons, Dover; Mr. J. Vesey Fitzgerald, Birmingham; Mr. W. T. Cole, Holywell; The *Journal*, Commerce, Liverpool; Our Manchester Correspondent; The Secretaries of the Epidemiological Society of London; The Secretaries of the Ontological Society, London; Mr. R. Wade Savage, London; Mr. W. Gripper, Wallington; Dr. Thin, London; Mr. J. P. Hocken, London; Dr. M. O. Coleman, Surbiton; Mr. J. Gibson, Halifax; Mr. B. Brooks, Hull; Dr. J. Johnstone, Glasgow; Mr. J. S. Tibbles, Melton Mowbray; Mr. W. T. Grant, London; Mr. W. Stallard, Worcester; Mr. W. A. Evans, Wolverhampton; Mr. R. H. Lucy, Worcester; Mr. G. P. Best, Cheltenham; Mr. C. J. Symonds, London; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Dr. Hack Tuke, London; Mr. J. S. Wood, London; Dr. Imlach, Liverpool; Mr. R. H. Rotham, Wincanton; Messrs. J. Grimaldi and Co., London; Dr. D. Adams, London; Dr. Morley Rooke, Cheltenham; Mr. Brock, Birmingham; The Assistant Secretary of the Royal Microscopical Society, London; Dr. J. Holmes, Radcliffe; Mr. W. E. Hadden, Portadown; Mr. L. Buchanan, Arva; Dr. S. Martin, London; Dr. R. Barnes, London; Mr. A. M. Shield, London; Dr. Illingworth, Clayton-le-Moors; Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., London; Mr. C. Maclean, Lairg; Dr. Tatham, Salford; Mr. E. Bryan, Idle, near Bradford; Mr. A. E. Wilmot, Maidenhead; Mr. E. A. Starling, Calverley; Mr. C. R. Owen, Rushden; Messrs. Turton and Sons, Sheffield; Mr. A. B. Clark, Shebban, North Devon; Dr. S. M. Rendall, Mentone; Dr. P. W. Macdonald, Dorchester; Mr. R. Martyn, London; Mr. W. Allars, Tewkesbury; Mr. W. C. Martin, London; Dr. Moore, Dublin; Mr. Warwick Steele, London; Mr. W. Ashton Ellis, London; etc.

#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Transactions of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain. Vol. vii. 1885 and 1886. London: Sanitary Institute. 1886.  
Alexander Wood, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.: A Sketch of his Life and Work. By the Rev. Thos. Brown, F.R.S.E. (his brother-in-law). Edinburgh: Macniven and Wallace. 1886.  
The Healing of Arteries after Ligature in Man and Animals. By J. C. Warren, M.D. New York: Wood and Co. 1886.  
Transactions of the Academy of Medicine in Ireland. Vol. iv. Edited by W. Thomson, M.A., F.R.C.S. Dublin: Fannin and Co. 1886.  
Druitt's Surgeon's Vade-Mecum. By Stanley Boyd, M.B., B.S. Lond. Twelfth Edition. London: H. Renshaw, and J. and A. Churchill. 1887.

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