

UNQUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTICE IN GLASGOW.

J. L. writes: Amongst the numerous letters on unqualified practice which have lately appeared in the columns of your valuable JOURNAL, I have seen none commenting on a form of that evil which prevails here to a considerable extent. I refer to the employment, by the medical officer of health, of unqualified men in medical inspection. These men, sanitary inspectors, in addition to their ordinary duties, examine sick persons, diagnose cases, and remove them to the fever hospital without putting any medical man to the trouble of seeing or certifying. Now this system may be convenient and cheap, but I submit that it is not just to the poor portion of the public, on whom alone it is practised, nor to the profession, neither is it worthy of a rich and enlightened community like Glasgow to effect the paltry saving of a medical fee by the encouragement of unqualified practice in what appears to me to be one of its worst forms.

A QUALIFIED ASSISTANT'S WAGES.

E. B. S. writes: I quite agree with your correspondent, "F. T. S.," in his remarks on the advertisement in a medical paper from a physician, for a qualified medical assistant who, in addition to working morning and afternoon in the surgery, and doing midwifery at night, was expected to act as tutor to the advertiser's two children, for three hours daily, for the handsome remuneration of £30 per annum and half midwifery fees. I am pleased to think that this generous physician will be some little time filling up the vacancy in his household, as I notice that an advertisement, evidently from the same person, was in a medical paper of December 4th, 1886. Here the advertiser makes it a *sine qua non* that the assistant should be a university man in addition to his other qualifications. Surely no words are too strong to condemn offers to a qualified (university) member in our profession of a salary which an ordinary plain cook would refuse with scorn.

TREATMENT OF BILIOUS HEADACHE.

DR. C. R. ILLINGWORTH writes: Speaking from a bitter personal experience of bilious headache, I find the biniodide of mercury the best remedy. I give a quarter of a grain in pill at bedtime, or during the day, and repeat it in four or six hours if necessary.

THE POISONOUS MEAL NEAR CARLISLE.

DR. RICHARD LOWTHER writes: It may not have occurred to those engaged in the investigation of this case to direct their attention to the brine or liquor in which the salt beef was boiled to ascertain the absence of septic germs or bacilli in that fluid. Books on cookery state that the pickle will keep good for a considerable time, and may be repeatedly used to pickle meat, providing it be boiled up occasionally, and a little salt added. If the pickle or liquor had become tainted from age, or inattention to the above instructions, is it not possible it might team with septic bacilli, which would make the meat highly dangerous? We know that the temperature of boiling water is not sufficiently high to destroy certain septic germs in certain stages of their development.

SINGULAR EXAMPLE OF ARREST OF DEVELOPMENT.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following notes of a case which came under his notice.

When a student in connection with a maternity hospital in Scotland recently, he was called to attend an out-door midwifery case. The patient was a multipara, and after a short first stage, extending about fifty minutes or an hour, a very powerful uterine contraction brought the child into the world, and this was followed, almost without a pause, by the expulsion of the placenta. The mother believed herself to have reached full time, and the size and weight of the infant were only to a very slight extent less than those of an average child born at full time. The limbs were perfectly developed, and the head and face were normal, except that the right side was possibly a little larger than the left. The thorax and abdomen, however, presented a rather singular appearance. The sternum was totally absent, and the ribs, whilst quite normal behind, only came forward to what should have been the vertical line of the nipple. The integuments of the thorax also stopped short at that line, so that the thoracic cavity was quite open in front. The lungs were collapsed, and occupied the back part of the chest. The heart was in the usual fetal position, and beating vigorously, and its action could be thoroughly observed. The diaphragm was incomplete in front in the neighbourhood of the middle line. The abdomen was still more patent than the thorax, its integuments coming forward only to the anterior superior spinous process of the ilium below, and the end of the false ribs above. The chief abdominal viscera were well developed with the exception of the bladder and the pelvic portions of the sexual apparatus, which were either entirely absent, or so small as to escape detection. The liver was of large size, and its "ligaments" so much lengthened, that it rested between the thighs of the child. The anus was absent, and no traces of external genito-urinary organs were to be seen. The body, with the placenta attached, was laid close to the fire, and for the long period of sixty-five minutes, without any other visible sign of life, the heart continued to pulsate, growing slower and more feeble until at length it stopped. It is much to be regretted that it was found impossible to obtain the body for examination.

H. R. RUCKLEY.—The suggestion has been handed to the managers of the meeting.

ERRATUM.—In announcing the appointment of Mr. Oliver as Junior House-Physician to Charing Cross Hospital in the JOURNAL of January 8th, the name was erroneously given as "W. Pye Oliver" instead of "C. Pye Oliver."

ERRATUM.—Dr. James Blake desires to call attention to an error in his memorandum on the Open-Air Treatment of Consumption, which was published in the JOURNAL of January 15th. The death-rate from consumption of the Indian children in California when brought up in the ways of civilised life is given as 5 per cent. instead of 65 per cent.

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

Dr. Edwards, London; Dr. F. Warner, London; Dr. Creighton, London; Dr. R. J. Orton, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Mr. T. Horne, Stockton-on-Tees; Mr. E. T. Thompson, Coventry; Mr. A. Stewart, Stoke-on-Trent; Mr. S. J. Moody, Bingham; Dr. A. F. Bampton, Plymouth; Mr. F. W. Chandler, Derby; Dr. Pye-Smith, London; Dr. Balfour, Edinburgh; Mr. R. Clement Lucas, London; Dr. J. Lucas, Ramsgate; Dr. C. J. White, Rochester; Dr. S. Dickey,

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Massage as a Mode of Treatment. By William Murrell, M.D., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1887.

What to do in the Cases of Poisoning. By William Murrell, M.D., F.R.C.P. Fifth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1887.

Researches upon the Venoms of Poisonous Serpents. By S. W. Mitchell, M.D., and Edward T. Reichert, M.D. Published by Smithsonian Institute, Washington City. 1887.

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