

## A CONSULTING-ROOM THIEF.

DR. A. E. T. LONGHURST writes: As a hint to my professional brethren, I send a line to say that a man called at my house about three o'clock yesterday afternoon, and asked if I was in; my servant saying no, he asked when I was expected; on being told in about half an hour, he said he would wait, was shown in, and took up the newspaper to read. In a very short time he was seen by my servant leaving the hall, saying he would call again, having a little business to transact. I need hardly say he did not, having taken with him my pocket-case and a binaural stethoscope, together valuing £4 to £5. He was of middle height, dark complexion, about 40 years of age, and called himself "Mr. Kerr."

## A NEW FIELD FOR WOMEN.

THE *Cumberland Pacquet* announces the death of a Mr. George Dennison, who is described as a "celebrated bone-setter." "Deceased's skill as a bone-setter, and indeed that of his father before him, was," our intelligent contemporary continues, "generally acknowledged; and it is no exaggeration to say that he had successfully treated some hundreds of cases, many of them of a difficult character. Deceased will be a much-missed man, but his mother, who has had thirty years' practical experience in bone-setting, and who has actually been attending to her son's business during his illness, intends to follow up the profession which has for so many years been carried on by her deceased son and her husband. The latter is now too old and feeble to work himself."

## RAPID STAINING OF THE TUBERCLE-BACILLUS.

HENRY S. GABBETT, M.D., writes: I can strongly recommend the following slight modification of Neelsen's method of staining the tubercle-bacillus in cover-glass preparations. The stain is made by dissolving 1 part of magenta in 100 of 5 per cent. watery solution of carbolic acid, and adding 10 of absolute alcohol. Heat this fluid over a spirit-lamp till steam rises freely. Float the preparation (made in the usual way), cover, and leave for two minutes. Then immerse in a solution of methylene blue in 25 per cent. sulphuric acid (made of a dark blue colour) for one minute, keeping the watch-glass in motion. Finally, rinse the cover-glass in distilled water, dry, and mount in balsam. The whole process occupies about five or six minutes.

Possibly this method may have been already suggested; if so, it has escaped my notice. The only novelty in it is the combination of the decolorising fluid and contrast stain, which are used separately in Neelsen's method. I find the results far better than those obtained by any of the other rapid methods; and Neelsen's carbolic solution of magenta is distinctly preferable to any of the preparations made with aniline.

## JUVENILE INCONTINENCE.

W. would recommend a course of bromide of iron, beginning with 5 grains three times a day, which may be increased during a fortnight to 15 or 20 grains for a short time. The syrup is the best preparation. The patient should sleep in loose flannel drawers, to prevent any chill to the lower part of the body or the thighs.

A triangular blister over the sacrum is a very efficient remedy. Whether the cantharidine has any good effect on the bladder-sphincter, or whether (which I think is the way it acts) it is beneficial by preventing the patient sleeping on the back, is a question. Care should be taken that the bladder is emptied before the patient goes to bed, and again before the house is shut up for the night. I have never known punishments or threats to have any good effect.

## THE EPIDEMIC OF DIARRHŒA.

DR. L. M. SNOW (Brabourne, Kent) writes: I have watched with interest the result of Dr. Kerr's letter in the *JOURNAL* of February 12th, and am surprised that no country practitioners have recorded their experiences, as one would think the epidemic was confined to London. During the last three months I have had an unusually large amount of diarrhœa cases presenting the same symptoms as Dr. Kerr describes, except that the abdominal pain seemed more severe. My cases have been among the small farmers and better class of working people; but I am at a loss to find any cause for the prevalence of the attacks; they are all about three or four miles apart, and consequently all have different milk and water supply, etc. In two or three families, from two to four members in each have been affected, and in two the wife was affected, then the husband, which circumstance seemed to me to point to some infection.

All my cases yielded quickly to dilute sulphuric acid and opium. I have had six or seven cases during the last fortnight, so that the epidemic does not seem over.

## FOREIGN BODY IN THE INTESTINAL CANAL.

MR. CASPAR R. LAURIE (Loughton, Essex) writes: Having noticed two or three cases of foreign body in the intestinal canal lately reported in the *JOURNAL*, I should like to record yet one more, which came under my care a week or two ago. The china leg of a doll, one inch and a half in length, with an angular foot half an inch long, was swallowed by an infant eight months old at 7 A.M.; it was safely passed without pain at 3 A.M. the next day, having been twenty-one hours in completing its journey. As in the other cases, "expectancy" was the only treatment.

## CASE OF SWALLOWING ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

M.D. writes: With reference to Mr. Ackery's letter, a patient of mine recently swallowed a plate (gold, with two teeth), and I immediately adopted a practice recommended to me some years ago by Sir James Paget in a similar case. I made him eat three good-sized slices of bread and swallow four tablespoonfuls of flour and water made into a fairly thick mass. I then administered an emetic, and the teeth returned entangled in the tenacious vomit. I may add that the first case was equally successful, and that something of this sort is habitually done at police-stations when prisoners passing false coins swallow them.

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Wear and Tear: or Hints for the Overworked. By S. Weir Mitchell, M.D., LL.D. Fifth Edition. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1887.  
Nervous Diseases and their Diagnosis. By H. C. Wood, M.D., LL.D. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1887.  
Electrical and Anatomical Demonstrations. By Herbert Tibbits, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1887.  
Bronchial Asthma. By J. C. Thorowgood, M.D., F.R.C.P. Third Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Co. 1887.

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