

papers. Having promised in it to give the remaining three months of winter weather, I ask leave to do so till the end of April.

Since January 23rd (last date) it has never been frost all day, a clear bright sun warming the air by 10 or 11 A.M.; such days were the healthiest. We had snow at 3 P.M. on March 11th, which was all dissolved by 11 A.M. on the 12th; 14th, snow from 6 A.M. till 12.30 P.M., which was melted by the sun by 5 P.M. the same day; 21st, snow fell during the night to two inches, which was dissolved by the bright sunshine of March 22nd.

On April 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 29th, there were sunshine and showers, with sleet and hail. We had wind from north-west to west, and south-west to south for 63 days; north-east, east to south-east, for 25 days; nil or variable for 10 days—in all, 98 days. We had:

Bright sunshine all day (or nearly) on 34 days.	
Sun with clouds	28
Snow	4
Hail	4
Rain	36

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Counting the snow, hail, and sleet as rain, that makes eight days too many, but it has always been fair for some part of each day during my observation for the two years just passed, and we had sunshine on each of the days of snow and hail. From the north wind we are pretty sheltered by the Inch Hills, on the north and east side of Loch Ryan, which raises the cold wind, and it becomes warmed coming over the loch. East wind seems to me to be lost coming across the country, especially as it is so apt to meet here a warm western current, many thousands of square miles in volume, from the mighty Atlantic, causing hail, snow, or sleet, and even rain to fall further inland. Whatever the reason, it has often been observed that snow may be all round and Stranraer escape; indeed, many of my days of recorded sunshine are reported from easterly districts as snowstorms. Stranraer might be a first-class resort for both summer and winter residents, but it is a very slow place. This should please visitors for a month in summer, as in most water-side towns the reverse holds good. But surely something might be made of it and its great advantages. If lines of tramcars were started from the foot of the Post-office Street to Kirkcubbin, a village six miles up the west side of Loch Ryan, and another from the same place to Cairnryan, six miles to the eastern side, they would pay, and intending bathers might get out at the most suitable place. At Cairnryan the cottages are so close to the loch that bathers may undress in their room, have their dip, and dress again at leisure in their bedroom.

Loch Ryan has many yachts and rowing or sail-boats, but has no swimming baths or bathing machines, a want which has been much felt, but should not continue, as the shores require them more than any place I have seen, bathing-places near the town being too flat and exposed.

CUCAINE IN OBSTETRIC PRACTICE.

DR. E. HEAD MOORE writes: I was interested to observe by the issue of April 30th, the success that had accompanied the use of cucaïne in labour and gynaecological cases in the hands of Dr. G. H. Roqué Dabbs. Directly after his first article recommending the use of this drug in solution, I had prepared, by Messrs. Gale and Co., of Bouverie Street, some hollow cones of cacao butter, containing each five grains of cucaïne, and in practice I am certainly of opinion that their use diminishes the pain attendant on the dilatation of the os, especially in primiparæ. Unfortunately, since I have had them in use, I have met with only one case of rigid os, and that not a very severe one, but the apparent relief afforded by the insertion of one of the cones in this case will certainly encourage me to adopt the same in any future cases. It would be interesting if Dr. Dabbs would inform his readers what quantity of the solution he uses; he mentions the strength, but not the amount of the drug he employs.

A CONSULTING-ROOM THIEF.

DR. RALPH GOODING (Blackheath) writes: The consulting-room thief alluded to by Mr. Hutton gave me a call a week or two ago. He stated his child was suffering from hip disease, and he feared an abscess was forming, and he wanted me to advise as to hospital treatment. He could not remember the person's name who recommended him to me, and declined to give his address, stating he lived about half a mile from my residence. He said his wife was nervous, and I was not to tell her too much. He arranged for her to bring the child to me at a stated hour, which she, of course, never did. He was a youngish man, between 30 and 40, short dark hair, whiskers and beard, and wore a light overcoat, and soiled leather, or dogskin, gloves.

TREATMENT OF WRITERS' CRAMP.

DR. DE WATTEVILLE writes: I have been frequently asked by medical men and others as to the whereabouts of Mr. Wolff, some of whose cures of writers' cramp I described in the JOURNAL two years ago. It may be of use to some of them to know that Mr. Wolff is at present in London (54, Welbeck Street) for the purpose of treating cases of writers' cramp.

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