

essential to the proper discharge of their duties. 2. That it salls under false colours by offering independence, no charity, self-support, self-management, choice of a doctor to those who will join it, and by saying every medical man of respectability may be on the staff of the dispensary. 3. That it is injurious to the public by creating distrust and want of confidence in the medical profession, and encouraging medical men to scamp their work by underpaying them. 4. That it fosters meanness, trickery, lying, and deception on the part of the members who join it who are well able to pay ordinary medical charges. 5. That it condones and encourages fraud by obtaining for an unlimited time what ought to be valuable services under the pretence of payment which amounts to next to nothing, so that each member can get "on demand" and as "a matter of right" "the sort of treatment that the family doctor gives to the rich men." 6. That it is founded on the club system, which has continued to exist through greed on the one hand and impunctuality on the other to degrade the medical profession and to demoralise the public.

I repeat what I wrote seven years ago: "Wherever the provident dispensary movement has been tried, it has done more harm than good. Evidence is not wanting to prove that its introduction has harassed and undermined the profession." The happiness of the many is sacrificed by the more than doubtful benefit of the few. We have already too many medical monopolies, and quite enough to contend against, without the manoeuvres of provident dispensaries or any great wholesale plan of treating disease. If there were a scarcity of medical men and a dearth of medical relief there would be some excuse for the cruel, wanton, and needless experiment on the lives of suffering humanity in the form of provident dispensaries. I know it has some upholders; so has every wrong that has disgraced the world!

VENTRAL NEPHRECTOMY FOR HYDRONEPHROSIS.

Mr. R. H. A. HUNTER (Battersea) writes: In reply to the letter of Mr. Clement Lucas, I can only repeat what I stated in my last communication that as in my opinion each case of hydronephrosis requires to be treated on its own merits, it is a waste of time to continue this controversy. As Mr. Lucas did not see the case, I maintain he is not in a position to judge as to whether the treatment adopted by me was right or wrong. My own impression, as well as those who were with me, regarding the case is that I acted rightly, so much so that should a similar case fall into my hands I would treat it in the same manner, with the addition of the drainage-tube, when I would have but little fear as to the result. Such operations I am confident do not depend so much upon their magnitude as the manner in which they are performed.

INVERSION OF THE UTERUS.

Dr. MARK SHARMAN (Leicester) writes: Shortly after 12 A.M. on February 16th I was called to the assistance of a midwife. On arriving, I found the patient, aged 40, pulseless, collapsed, and dying. I gave two hypodermic injections of ether, and raised the foot of the bed. There had been considerable hæmorrhage, but not sufficient to account for her condition. On examination, the uterus was found completely inverted, protruding beyond the external genitals as far as it was possible to do, the placenta being firmly adherent over the fundus. I replaced the organ and removed the placenta. The patient died within five minutes of my arrival. The midwife said: "The child was delivered alive without difficulty, and"—pointing to the uterus and placenta—"this came ten minutes afterwards." Of course I was unable to verify my suspicion that the cord had been pulled upon and undue pressure applied to the fundus uteri.

I may add that the woman had been in a very destitute state during this winter, probably causing a relaxed state of her system. There was no history of any appreciable difficulty in her former labours.

BRITISH QUALIFICATIONS.

Mr. G. H. PINDER (Manchester) writes: I was asked the other day to sign a certificate for a patient who is a member of the Railway Guards' Universal Friendly Society. As I am only a College and Hall man, having been unfortunate enough to be an English student, I was unable to do so. Rule 34 of this society states: "In all cases this certificate must be signed by an M.D." And attention is specially called to the letters M.D., which in the certificate are underlined. Thus, a man with the qualification of F.R.C.S. Eng. and M.R.C.P. Lond. would be unable to sign this certificate, whereas one holding that of one of the numerous Scotch universities could settle the matter at once.

If Scotch degrees were thrown open to English students as English qualifications are to Scotch, we Englishmen should not have so much reason for complaint. For many years the passport to Manchester appointments has been "Scotch M.D.," and, as a rule, to have been a Manchester student was quite enough to damn any chance which a candidate might have, if a Scotch qualification was in the way. We have been inundated for years with Scotch qualifications, from the M.D. Edin. to the Licentiate of the refuge for the destitute. Many a man, after having been plucked in England, has wended his way North, and, to the surprise of his fellow-students, has reappeared as "Dr. Smith," or "John Jones, Physician and Surgeon."

Everything English now seems under a cloud, and until we get a good sound British qualification, which every man practising in Great Britain ought to be compelled to possess, the only consolation which most of us College of Surgeons men have is the satisfaction of knowing that "Mr. So-and-So, Surgeon," practically means "English student, London qualification; get your bread and cheese as best you can."

A POST-GRADUATE COURSE IN SKIN DISEASES.

Mr. W. STUART LOW, 300, Waterloo Road, S.E., writes: For two or three weeks past an advertisement has been inserted in the JOURNAL stating the desire of a number of medical men to get up a course of post-graduate lectures on skin diseases. As we have not yet got a sufficiently large number of names to form a good class, and as we know that this is a course that is much wanted by practitioners, perhaps you would be kind enough to give all an opportunity of joining by giving a prominent notice in the JOURNAL of our desire and intention.

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

Sir C. B. W. Soame, Dawley; Mr. J. Bunting, Torquay; W. H. Newnham, M.B., Bristol; Mr. W. Parker, Bath; Dr. J. A. Myrtle, Harrogate; Mr. J. T. Roberts, Rhondda Valley; W. G. Owen, M.B., Carnarvon; Mr. T. S. Lacey, Royton; J. Leitch, M.B., Sillioth; Messrs. F. Walters and Co., Lon-

don; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. J. V. Solomon, Birmingham; Miss Goff, London; Dr. W. Alexander, Streatham; Mr. J. B. Burton, Liverpool; Mr. G. Rendle, London; Mr. J. T. Clouston, Edinburgh; Dr. P. Tytler, Manchester; Dr. A. Kempe, Exeter; Dr. R. Wade Savage, London; Mr. C. Palmer, Burton-on-Trent; Mr. W. H. Maling, Sunderland; Dr. A. Ransome, Bowdon; Dr. E. Mapother, Dublin; Dr. Tatham, Salford; Mr. J. C. Culling, Colchester; Mr. W. R. Watson, Govan; Dr. W. G. Gimson, Exeter; Dr. J. E. Shaw, Clifton; The Honorary Secretary of the Hampden Club, London; Professor George Buchanan, Glasgow; Mr. J. J. Ideson, Colne; F. J. Wethered, M.B., London; Mr. H. F. C. Eagle, London; Mr. R. N. Day, Harlow; Messrs. Wm. Edwards and Son, Barnsley; Dr. C. Orton, Newcastle, Staffs.; Mr. R. W. Dillon, London; Mr. P. Forbes, Edinburgh; The Secretary of the National Sea Fisheries Protection Association, London; Mr. W. Smith, London; Dr. Mackay, Inverness; Dr. W. H. Walton, South Pertherton; Messrs. C. Green and Co., London; Dr. Louis Parkes, London; Mr. R. R. Weir, London; Dr. Rayner, London; Dr. T. W. Hime, Bradford; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Mr. T. R. Humphreys, London; Mr. J. Gibson, Bromley; Dr. T. Clurton, Leeds; D. L. Ritchie, M.B., Saltburn; Dr. Park, Glasgow; Mr. Bland Sutton, London; Dr. W. M. Campbell, Liverpool; Dr. G. W. Richards, Old Swinford; Dr. Bristowe, London; Surgeon-Major R. N. Macpherson, Rawal Pindi; Mr. R. Mosse, London; Dr. Grant Bey, Cairo; Mr. S. Pattey, Paris; Mr. W. P. Morgan, Seaford; Mr. W. Donovan, Birmingham; Mr. R. H. A. Hunter, London; Mr. W. W. Pike, Curragh Camp; Mr. W. Brown, Salford; Mr. S. W. Foster, Chester; Mr. P. H. Harvey, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Brigade-Surgeon F. R. Wilson, M.B., Perth; Mr. H. A. Lawton, Poole; Mr. Butler, Reading; Mr. H. E. Matthews, Levenshulme; Dr. Maurice Parry Jones, Alfreton; Deputy Surgeon-General Gardiner, Newton Abbot; Mr. G. H. Warren Thomas, Teignmouth; Dr. R. Paramore, London; Mr. J. S. Robertson, Shirley; Mr. W. O. Barré, Mossley, Manchester; Mr. G. Quarrie, Birmingham; The Secretary of the Parkes Museum, London; Dr. Illingworth, Clayton-le-Moors; Sir William Stokes, Dublin; Mr. E. B. Barnes, London; Herr G. Fischer, Jena; Dr. P. G. Unna, Hamburg; Dr. A. Emrys-Jones, Manchester; Dr. Maxwell, Woolwich; Messrs. Pratt and Co., London; Mr. A. Salter, Thursday Island, Queensland; Dr. J. B. Okell, Leicester; Dr. M. Coates, Streatham; Messrs. Savory and Moore, London; Miss Morris, Hereford; The Military Secretary, India Office, London; Mr. F. W. E. Kinneir, Horsham; Mr. A. H. Benson, Dublin; Medical Staff; Mr. Arthur Cooper, London; Mr. R. H. Coall, Loughborough; Dr. Crossman, Hambrook; Messrs. T. Christy, London; Mr. Adams Frost, London; Mr. C. Moxham, Stroud; Dr. Mickle, London; Mr. J. W. Hayward, Whitstable; Mr. J. Dickson, Dorking; Dr. Hewitt, Kersal; Dr. E. Drummond, Rome; Dr. E. Liveing, London; The Secretary of the National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor; Surgeon-Major C. Churchill, Colchester; Messrs. Street and Co., London; The Board of Management, Chelsea Hospital for Women; Mr. J. B. Gate, Morriston; Messrs. Ledger, Smith, and Co., London; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Mr. Watson Cheyne, London; Mr. C. S. Kilner, Bury St. Edmunds; Mr. R. Browne, King's Lynn; Dr. Symes Thompson, London, etc.

BOOKS, ETC. RECEIVED.

A Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Skin. By J. V. Shoemaker, A.M., M.D. New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1888.

Birkenhead Literary and Scientific Society. Session 31, 1887 and 1888. Engravings and Engraving. By Francis Vacher, President.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL."

Seven lines and under	...	...	...	£0 3 6
Each additional line	...	...	...	0 0 4
A whole column	...	...	...	1 15 0
A page	...	...	...	5 0 6

An average line contains seven words.

When a series of insertions of the same advertisement is ordered, a discount is made on the above scale in the following proportions, beyond which no reduction can be allowed.

For 6 insertions, a deduction of	...	10 per cent.
" 12 or 13 "	...	20 "
" 26 "	...	25 "
" 52 "	...	30 "

Special terms for occasional change of copy during series:

20 per cent. if not less than 26 pages be taken	...	or their equivalent
25 "	52 "	in half or
30 "	104 "	quarter pages.

For these terms the series must, in each case, be completed within twelve months from the date of first insertion.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager at the Office, not later than noon on the Wednesday preceding publication; and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association, at the West Central Post-Office, High Holborn. Small amounts may be paid in postage-stamps.