

against 12,182 in this country; between the ages of 40 and 50 France has 12,190 per 100,000, against 9,629 in this country. Finally, between 50 and 60, the proportional number per 100,000 in France is 9.62, against 6.426 in this country.

It is well known that cancer is far more common in this country since there has been an increase in its average longevity, and consequently, *a fortiori*, we must expect to find a greater increase in the more adult country of France. This, and not diet, seems to be a more probable cause of the effect chronicled by the learned Professor Verneuil.

CRACKING OFF A FLY.

DR. T. SANCTUARY (Kensington) writes: In your report of the meeting of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society for April 6th, Mr. Dunn, in relating a case of perforation of the eyeball by the knot of a whip, assigned as a reason for the detachment of the knot from the lash that "the thong had become heated." I do not think this solution of the accident is the right one; and, although it is but a small point, I venture to suggest that the knot flew off on account of the lash being so sharply curved in order to produce the "crack" of the whip.

An analogous thing frequently happens in fly fishing, and was much commoner before "eyed" hooks came into vogue for artificial flies; in this case there is certainly no heating, for in the majority of instances the fly is only just out of the cold water, and the cause of the fly "cracking" off is that the line is returned too suddenly from the backward cast, thereby allowing it to make an acute angle with the line instead of an easy curve. And that this should happen more frequently with catgut than whiplash is explained by the fact of the comparative brittleness of the former. Perhaps Mr. Hulke or Mr. Priddin Teale could give their practical experience on this point.

As an illustration of the force with which a fly "cracked off" in this way goes through the air after its separation, I may mention a fact which occurred under my own observation, where a heavy salmon fly tied on dry gut (not properly soaked previous to using) cracked off and went through a glass window behind the fisherman. I may add that the fly could not have reached the window without being detached from the line; it must have travelled nearly ten yards after separating before it smashed the glass, and it was picked up on the floor of the room subsequently, just as the knot of the whiplash was found in the eyeball.

This unique case is the more interesting to me personally as it occurred whilst I was acting as "médecin en chef" to the Hippodrome at Olympia; and because I sent it on to Mr. Dunn for the operation which he so successfully performed.

"KISSING THE BOOK."

MR. F. W. LOWNDES (Liverpool) writes: Now that the Oaths Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons, would it not be a favourable opportunity for effecting a reform in the manner of taking the oath? Even should the Bill pass, as seems certain, there are many witnesses, medical and lay, as well as jurors and bailiffs, who will still feel bound to take the oath, in preference to making an affirmation.

In all parts of the United Kingdom except Scotland and (I believe) the Channel Islands, the oath is administered to the witness by the coroner, or in all other courts by an officer appointed for the purpose who repeats the form of words, the witness being required to place to his lips a copy of the New or Old Testament; the only exceptions being Quakers, who are permitted to affirm. This "kissing the book," as it is called, is, to say the very least, a disagreeable mode of being sworn, from which many would be glad to be relieved. When regard is had to the very varied classes of the witnesses, who are all sworn upon the same book, this feeling of the disagreeable is considerably enhanced. Nor does it require any great stretch of the imagination to suppose that this mode of swearing, or taking the oath, may be a possible and very probable source of infection. What is more probable than that a witness or juror should have come from a house in which one of its inhabitants was affected with fever? Again (though I hardly like to suggest it), might not syphilis be conveyed in this way? If the latter may be communicated by kissing, by using a tobacco- or blow-pipe in common, of which we have absolute proof, this handling and kissing of a book indiscriminately appears to me to be a perfectly possible means of contagion. Even kissing the open book does not remove the objection.

In Scotland the oath is given to each witness in a manner free from any such objections. The witness holds up his right hand and repeats the form of oath after the judge. No witness is required to kiss the book, and one is only used in the case of Roman Catholics, who hold the finger and thumb upon a cross made on it, while repeating the form. It appears to me very desirable to substitute at least a modification of the Scotch form of oath for that now in use in England. The holding up of the right hand and the repetition of the oath by each witness is more impressive, and free from any objection. A very short clause in the Act would suffice to ensure this, and would facilitate rather than retard its passing. I have suggested it to two members of the House of Commons, and if every associate who agrees with me will use his influence with other members, this much-needed reform, even if it be not effected, will at least receive some of the attention it deserves.

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

Mr. T. Wilson, Wallsend; Dr. Birt, Stourbridge; Dr. Godfrey, London; Mr. R. P. White, Wigan; Mr. A. O. Harnett, Sittingbourne; Mr. F. Mulliner, Liverpool; Dr. Bond, Gloucester; Mr. P. L. Karkeek, Torquay; Dr. C. E. Shelly, Hertford; Mr. J. G. Modlin, New Radnor; Dr. Waller, London; Dr. J. Mackenzie Booth, Aberdeen; The Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, London; Surgeon-General Cornish, London; Dr. Park, Glasgow; Mr. C. L. Williams, Birkenhead; T. Wardrop Griffith, M.B., Leeds; Mr. Adams Frost, London; Mr. Garner, Clonmel; Mr. H. O. Stuart, Plumstead; Dr. G. H. Batterbury, Wimborne; F. J. Wethered, M.B., London; The Honorary Secretary of the Irish Exhibition in London; Mr. J. C. Watson, Sunderland; Mr. S. Plowman, London; Royal Surgeon; Mr. T. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Mr. Butler-Smythe, London; Mr. D. J. Brooking, Woodward, Iowa; Mr. H. F. Stokes, London; The Secretary of the Parkes Museum, London; G. Gore Gillon, M.B., Wellington, New Zealand; Dr. Mayer, Carlsbad; Mr. J. Powell, Weybridge; Mr. G. E. Williamson, New-

castle-on-Tyne; Mr. W. Jones-Morris, Portmadoc; Mr. G. P. Newbott, Ellesmere Port; Dr. Clifford Allbutt, Leeds; Dr. Aithaus, London; Dr. W. F. Haslam, Birmingham; Mr. W. Gardiner, London; Dr. E. F. Neve, Kashmir, India; Dr. Percy Boulton, London; Mr. W. J. Black, Liverpool; Dr. Ward Cousins, Southsea; Mr. A. de St. Dalmas, Leicester; Mr. A. C. De Renzi, London; Mr. E. S. McKay, London; Mr. G. F. Da Costa, Kingstown, Jamaica; Dr. F. A. Castle, New York; Mr. H. W. Taylor, London; Mr. C. J. Bond, Leicester; Dr. Ricketts, Southport; Dr. R. Main, Newbury; Dr. H. R. Greene Pasha, Cairo; Mr. F. Treves, London; Dr. Maxwell, Woolwich; Mr. W. M. Knipe, Melbourne; Dr. Young, Hounslow; Mr. E. Bellamy, London; Mr. J. Clay, Birmingham; The Chamberland Pasteur Filter Company, Manchester; Messrs. Green and Co., London; Mr. W. H. Spurgin, Maryport; Mr. G. M. Smith, Clifton; Mr. W. H. Pearce, London; The Secretary of the University of London; Mr. W. W. Wagstaffe, Sevenoaks; The Secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, London; Mr. T. P. Teale, Leeds; Mr. H. K. Lewis, London; Dr. Sutherland, London; Dr. J. Brown, Baeup; Mr. W. J. Coryn, Brixton; Mr. M. Rees, Llanelly; Dr. W. L. Symes, Birkenhead; Mr. J. H. Neale, Leicester; Mr. F. H. Collins, Manchester; Mr. E. Garraway, Faversham; Dr. Bailey, London; Dr. Maguire, London; Dr. R. P. Smith, London; The Right Hon. J. Henegage, M.P., London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. J. West, London; Mr. T. H. Davis, Dawley; Mr. J. H. Anderson, Rugby; Dr. G. E. Fuller, Leicester; Mr. A. F. Barrett, Derby; Dr. H. Aspinall, New York; Mr. E. Roe, Lyndhurst; Mr. R. J. Bigden, Gravesend; Mr. J. Dixon, Dorking; Dr. R. J. H. Scott, Bath; Dr. P. Frankland, London; Mr. E. Hamilton, Dublin; Messrs. Hayward and Sons, Stowmarket; Mr. W. Gardiner, London; Messrs. Chaffey Brothers, London; Mr. J. F. H. Broadbent, London; Mr. J. Robertson, Hertford; Dr. Mickle, London; Mr. A. W. Hall, Sawbridgeworth; Mr. Carl Lawinski, London; Dr. S. Rendall, Aix-les-Bains; Dr. T. Sanctuary, London; Mr. H. Hall, London; Dr. G. Cortwert, Milverton; Mr. P. G. Bell, Thorne; Mr. G. H. Farry, Docking; Dr. J. Hamill, Westgate; Mr. J. P. Wilton, Gloucester; The Honorary Secretaries of the Marshall and Shaw Fund, Clifton; Mr. E. J. Byrd, Halton; Mr. H. H. Graham, London; Mr. M. J. Moylan, Ruabon; Mr. R. Currie, Ballymena; Mr. H. J. Tizard, Weymouth; Mr. P. Grove, London; Dr. A. T. Gibbins, Dalton; Dr. E. Slade King, Ilfracombe; J. Wilding, M.B., Bristol; Mr. F. Savery, Hull; Dr. Bond, Gloucester; Dr. E. Liveing, London; Our Vienna Correspondent; etc.

BOOKS, ETC. RECEIVED.

- Principles of Forensic Medicine. By the late William A. Guy, M.B. Cantab., F.R.S., and David Ferrier, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. Sixth Edition, revised and illustrated; 174 wood engravings. London: Henry Reusshaw.
- Nature's Hygiene. By C. T. Kingzett, F.I.C., F.C.S. Third Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox.
- Lectures on the Treatment of the Common Diseases of the Skin. By Robert M. Simon, M.D., M.R.C.P. Birmingham: Cornish Brothers.
- Physiological and Clinical Studies. By A. James, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1888.
- An Index of Symptoms as an Aid to Diagnosis. By Ralph W. Leftwich, M.D. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1888.
- Will-making made Safe and Easy: an Aid to Testators. By A. Rumsey. London: John Hogg. 1888.
- Guide to the Health Resorts in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. Edited and compiled by L. Bruck. Centennial Edition. Published at the Australian Medical Gazette, Sydney. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox.

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

Seven lines and under	...	...	...	20	3	6
Each additional line	...	...	...	0	0	4
A whole column	...	...	...	1	15	0
A page	...	...	...	5	0	0

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.