

of the institutions, the idea of qualifying themselves for first aid in cases of accident has become very popular, and we constantly receive at this office requests for aid in supplying on loan apparatus for classes, and in finding teachers. This desire to receive careful courses of instruction, and to pass the necessary examination held by the St. John Ambulance Association, deserves every encouragement, and I am sure that we may again ask medical friends to come forward.

From every point of view, such brotherly work as this must be hailed with satisfaction, and our working-men students are deeply grateful to those who will give the needed instruction at classes to be held one evening a week. We would ask any professor of the "divine art of healing" able to meet our wishes to kindly send a reply to Mr. J. J. Dent, the Secretary of our Union, and to state what district in London they could conveniently teach. It is to be understood, of course, that travelling expenses will be paid in every case.

PROLONGED GESTATION.

DR. W. H. MURRAY (Galashiels) writes: Mrs. S., aged 25, married five years, no family, consulted an Edinburgh gynaecologist in January, 1888, and was told by him that her ovaries were diseased, and that she had better go to the hospital for treatment. Preferring to remain at home, she asked me to attend to her. Rest in bed and the hot douche was all the treatment employed, my attendance ceasing on February 4th. On March 24th Mrs. S. stated to me that she had menstruated on February 12th, but she had not seen anything since. She complained of morning sickness and a feeling of malaise. The nipples were prominent, and there was a distinct areola around them, with enlarged mamillae. I gave it as my opinion that she was pregnant, and that, in all probability, it dated back to her last menstruation on February 12th. I heard nothing further of my patient until November 28th, when she sent for me, thinking she was in labour. Both the patient and nurse declared that she was having regular pains, recurring every ten minutes. On making a vaginal examination I could find no evidence of labour having set in, nor did I find any improvement on a subsequent visit in the afternoon, although she still declared she felt pains at regular intervals. A dose of opium and an assurance from me that the pains were not the right kind had the effect of settling the pain and putting her mind at rest. I called on the following day, and found my patient busy with her household duties and quite comfortable. On the afternoon of January 11th unmistakable labour pains set in, and by 9 P.M. the cervix was dilated to the size of a sixpence. Progress was slow, due to the presentation being occipito-posterior and the head a big one. The cervix was not half dilated by 8 P.M. on January 12th, though the membranes were still unruptured. Finding her strength becoming exhausted and no progress being made, I delivered with forceps. Unfortunately, the infant (stillborn) was not weighed until the following day, when it scaled $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds and measured $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches round the shoulders.

The interest of the case lies in the length of the pregnancy. Did the woman become pregnant after her period, beginning February 12th, 1888, the verdict I gave on March 24th? If so, the period of gestation was eleven months almost. Allowing five days would bring the date of expected birth to November 19th, but instead it occurred on January 12th, 1889, or 330 days. Suppose the pregnancy took place before the next period, which would have occurred on March 12th, is it at all likely that I could have found such pronounced symptoms of pregnancy as I did on March 24th? Even admitting that the pregnancy did occur in March, still she carried the child *in utero* until January 12th following, that is to say, 294 days after I had pronounced her pregnant. In my own mind I am quite satisfied that this woman became pregnant after her February period, beginning on February 12th and ending on February 17th, so that she actually carried the child 330 days. In Taylor's *Medical Jurisprudence* I find that 330 days is the longest on record, and in none of the cases therein mentioned are the facts so clear as in this case of mine.

The dates I have taken from my daily visiting list and are absolutely correct. Dr. Burnett, who has acted as my assistant for the last eighteen months and who also saw the woman on March 24th, can verify every date given.

THE ABUSE OF HOSPITALS.

MR. COTTENHAM FARMER (Gray's Inn Road) writes: As a practitioner in the Gray's Inn Road I am in the very centre of hospitals, both general and special, and yet from a knowledge of the neighbourhood there appears to be little or no need for all these so-called charitable institutions. The people are undoubtedly above such gratuitous relief. Yet what is the result? You will find that nearly all the tradespeople, lodgers, and housekeepers have regularly, at one time or another, made use of the hospitals. I am now attending publicans, tradespeople, managers of large printing firms, and clerks whose salaries average between £200 and £400 per annum, and yet all own to having taken advantage of this pauperising form of relief. These facts will, I think, be corroborated by the medical men in the neighbourhood; one told me the other day that most of the clerks in and around Gray's Inn regularly attended the out-patient departments, and by the well-to-do classes Great Ormond Street Hospital is shamefully abused.

It should be remembered that none of these hospitals were intended to be used by this class. Engraved upon their mural tablets are these words: *For the destitute sick*. Now I question whether we shall find 10 per cent. attending the out-patient departments and answering to this description. If this can be substantiated, what an abuse is here! What money absolutely squandered and its purpose altogether misapplied! Certainly this condition of things calls for a thorough investigation. The money willed and subscribed to these institutions is not and never was intended to be so recklessly expended. For many reasons I feel sure than in parts of London, not only the people themselves, the general practitioners, but the general tone of the district would be much improved by the entire abolition of these charities, the poor-law organisation being quite equal to meeting the really deserving cases of destitute sickness, and people with fair incomes would be taught to study thrift and make preparation for illness, and spend less upon drink and luxuries than they do at present, and gain both in honesty and independence.

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

J. A. Waring, M.B., London; Dr. J. W. Lane, Milford Haven; Mr. W. Johnson, Leeds; Dr. G. G. Bantock, London; Messrs. Arnold and Co., London; Dr. J. F. Payne, London; Messrs. W. J. Bush and Co., London; Dr. Wil-

loughby, London; Surgeon-Major; Mr. H. G. Armstrong, Crowthorne; Dr. Hodgson, London; Mr. Michelli, London; Mr. A. Swann, Batley; Professor Straus, Paris; J. A. Wetherall, M.B., Barnsley; Surgeon-General; Dr. S. Delépine, London; Mr. H. D. Buss, London; The Secretary of the Odontological Society of Great Britain, London; Mr. T. Sandell, London; Dr. H. Snow, London; Rev. J. Milner, Darlington; Mr. C. Turner, London; Dr. J. MacIntock, Bradford; Mr. C. Verne, Grenoble; Dr. G. Thin, London; Messrs. H. Greenwood and Co., London; Dr. T. Linn, Paris; Mr. J. B. Scott, Gibraltar; Mr. C. J. Stanley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; The Secretary of the Sanitary Institute, London; Dr. P. Boobyer, Nottingham; Dr. J. J. O'Brien, London; Dr. Wycliffe, Bray; Brigade-Surgeon H. Knaggs, Ventnor; Professor W. Groves, London; Dr. G. W. Richards, Stourbridge; Major J. Aldridge, Hungerford; Mr. A. H. Benson, Dublin; Mr. W. L. Morgan, Oxford; Dr. Dedieu, Paris; Mr. W. C. Luffman, Bristol; Mr. J. Taylor, Titchhurst; Mr. W. J. Sinkins, London; Messrs. Street and Co., London; Dr. R. J. Collie, Sunderland; Surgeon-Major D. Wilkie, Fairlie; The Editor of *Invention*, London; Dr. A. B. Munro, Bradford; Professor Annandale, Edinburgh; Dr. F. W. Stokes, Birmingham; The Dee Oil Company, London; Our Sheffield Correspondent; Dr. A. Cezilly, Paris; Dr. H. Simpson, Manchester; Mr. W. W. Millard, Edinburgh; L. T. Young, M.B., Dublin; Dr. C. Macdowell, Carlow; Mrs. C. F. Poole, Kingstown; Messrs. Grindley, Groom, and Co., Bombay; Mr. H. W. Allingham, London; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Mr. S. Murphy, London; Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Professor J. Berry Haycraft, Edinburgh; Dr. S. A. K. Strahan, Northampton; Mr. J. F. Colyer, London; Dr. J. Inglis-Parsons, London; Mrs. Philpots, Oxtou; Mr. G. T. Bettany, London; Dr. A. McLean, Portland; Dr. R. Rager, Winterbourne; Mr. M. W. Kerin, Cork; Dr. W. Sellers, Radcliffe; Dr. Symes Thompson, London; Messrs. Prince and Co., London; Dr. G. MacDonald, London; Dr. J. Shaw, Liverpool; Mr. W. F. Cleveland, London; Mr. H. H. Tomkins, Clifton; Dr. S. Herbert, Southampton; Dr. C. J. R. McLean, Yeading; Dr. J. I. Ellis, Royston; Mr. R. J. Collins, Dulverton; Dr. T. G. Nasmyth, Gibraltar; Mr. R. Stirling, Perth; Dr. Swanzy, Dublin; Dr. C. R. Illingworth, Accrington; Dr. Maule, Birkdale; Mr. J. W. Alexander, Wakefield; Dr. A. Napier, Glasgow; Dr. R. Wade Savage, London; Dr. A. Grant, London; Mr. T. S. Clark, London; Dr. J. W. Byers, Belfast; Dr. E. Crossman, Hambrook; Dr. Tatham, Salford; Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Co., London; E. J. Burnett, M.B., Galashiels; Mr. W. Barnes, London; Dr. Leith Napier, London; The Lady Superintendent of the School of Massage and Electricity, London; Dr. G. P. Bate, London; Mr. J. P. Massingham, Stoke-on-Trent; Mr. T. F. Southam, Eccles; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mrs. Hathaway, Chatham; Mr. D. T. Smith, Preston; Dr. J. D. Hayward, Liverpool; Mr. Charles Goulet, London, etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Mayne's Medical Vocabulary. by W. G. Wagstaffe, B.A., F.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1889.

Transactions of the Association of American Physicians. Third session, vol. iii. Philadelphia: Printed for the Association. 1888.

London: H. K. Lewis. 1889.

The Causation of Disease. By Harry Campbell, M.D., B.S. Lond.

A Textbook of Human Physiology. By Austin Flint, M.D., LL.D. 4th Edition.

Epitome of Surgery. By Ridley Dale, M.D., M.R.C.S. Eng.

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 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:

25 per cent. if not less than 26 pages be taken	...	or their equivalent
50 "	...	in half or
75 "	...	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.

NOTICE.—Advertisers are requested to observe that it is contrary to the Postal Regulations to receive at Post-Offices letter addressed to initials only.