

meet bravely all the emergencies of daily life. I once thought that our colleges turned out a vast number of theoretical men, but I must in fairness say that they also turn out practical men as far as the poor uterus and its appendages are concerned. I confess I should not like to be a uterus nowadays, especially if I had a crook in my back.

THE ABUSE OF HOSPITALS BY THE AFFLUENT.

MR. GEORGE A. GUNTON, L.K.Q.C.P., writes: The following incident which occurred last week may be of some interest to your readers. I was called to a patient whom I found to be suffering from slight prolapsus uteri. I explained the condition of affairs, and proposed replacing and keeping the prolapsed organ *in situ* with a pessary. On visiting her the next day she informed me that a friend strongly advises her going to the — hospital. I quote her own words: "I can go to the — hospital and see Dr. —; he will not examine me there, but will make an appointment for me to go to his house, and then I can go to the hospital and get my medicine for nothing. He will only charge a small fee."

Dr. — is M.D.Lond., and poses as a consultant. The patient has ample means and could pay any reasonable fees. What is to become of the general practitioner if he has on one side these so-called consultants and cheap dispensaries on the other?

TREATMENT OF OBESITY.

MR. W. TOWERS-SMITH (London) writes: In the JOURNAL of January 19th Dr. Henderson refers to my remarks on obesity, and mentions Dr. Salisbury, of New York, in connection therewith. You published in the JOURNAL of November 10th, 1888, a statement of my cases, and I mentioned that I had carefully considered the various treatments for obesity from the days of Banting to date. Dr. Salisbury's views accord with mine only as far as my first period of fourteen days; the subsequent treatment is widely different. If Dr. Henderson will give me his address, I will gladly send him my diet cards, which will enable him to judge.

Latterly I have had a large number of cases, nearly all successful. Many doctors amongst my patients. I venture to think a report just to hand may interest your readers—a lady treated by Dr. German, of Seaford, near Liverpool: November 14th: weight, 12 st. 3½ lbs.; girth, 47½ inches. November 28th: weight, 11 st. 9 lbs.; girth, 39 inches. December 19th: weight, 11 st.; girth, 36 inches; a loss in weight of 1 st. 3½ lbs.; girth, 11½ inches. He also finishes by saying his patient is very well.

THE PROPERTY IN PRESCRIPTIONS.

MR. R. W. BARROW (Hoylake, Cheshire) writes: Dr. Rentoul, in the JOURNAL of January 19th, ventilated a grievance which, in the present overcrowded state of the profession, is beginning to make itself felt, and, as he says, "the question must soon come to the front." I allude to the abuse of prescriptions. Over and over again I am told by patients that they would have consulted me very much sooner only "they were deriving so much benefit from a prescription which a friend had lent to them, who got it from Dr. So-and-so." This is of daily occurrence, and every medical man in general practice must have the same experience. The income that is thus lost to the profession annually must be something enormous. As a partial remedy against this evil I have for some years adopted the plan of sending the prescription myself to the druggist, who returns the prescription to me, and who on no account gives a copy to the patient. If some such rule as the one I have adopted were carried out by every member of the profession, we should hear less of prescriptions being passed about.

INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION.

MR. JUDSON DALAND (Philadelphia, U.S.A.) writes: In the JOURNAL of November 10th, 1888, I read with great interest the unusual case of intestinal obstruction reported by Mr. Percy Potter. It occurred to me in reading that the forced rectal injection of hydrogen in the manner suggested by Dr. Nicholas Senn, of Milwaukee, Michigan, might have solved the difficulty, and have led the operator at once to the exact seat of the obstruction. The bowel would have been inflated up to the point of obstruction; beyond that the gas could not go. This gaseous injection could have been made while the intestines were in view, which would greatly aid the surgeon.

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

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Fifteen Hundred Cases of Fistula, Piles, and other Diseases of the Rectum. A Review by Samuel Benton, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S. and L.M.Eng. London: H. Renshaw. 1889.
P. and O. Pocket Book for 1888-9.
Transactions of the American Gynecological Society for the year 1888. Vol. 13. Philadelphia: W. J. Dornan. 1888.
Roaring in Horses. By George Fleming, C.B., LL.D., F.R.C.V.S. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1889.
Handbook of the Diagnosis and Treatment of Skin Diseases. By A. Van Harlingen, M.D. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son, and Co.
St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports. Edited by W. S. Church, M.D., and W. J. Walsham, F.R.C.S. Vol. XXIV. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1889.

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