

communicating agent—at any rate, in such a condition, I should not feel at all comfortable at sea with a cabin companion in advanced consumption.

If medical men would only think what a frightful thing it is to get rid of dying patients by subjecting them to the misery of a long sea voyage, legislation on the subject would scarcely be called for. As it is, the only measures at all practicable must deal with passengers before they leave port, as, once at sea, things go on in a humdrum fashion, and any suggestion is then, as a rule, met by ill-will. Certainly consumptive patients ought to have cabins to themselves, but I scarcely see how this can be efficiently carried out without medical certificates as to health or disease, and even with these I am afraid there would be much trouble relative to whether a person was suffering from tuberculosis or not.

#### HOW TO AVOID DANGER FROM POISONS.

W. W. H. writes: As we continually hear of accidents occurring from patients taking lotions or liniments, which are frequently poisonous, instead of their proper medicine, allow me to suggest a plan for the greater safety of patients, which is a very simple one, and one which has never failed with myself. All mixtures are sent out in "flats," lotions and gargles in "direct squares," and liniments in "octagons." By this simple method it will be seen that mixtures intended for internal administration are in different shaped bottles to the applications that are not intended to be swallowed, so that by the sense of touch the patient may at once detect his mixture or his lotion, or may direct his attendant to whichever shaped bottle he requires. I use the following sizes in "flats" as being the most useful—6, 4, 3, 1, 1½, and 1 ounce, the two last being marked in teaspoons, the rest in six parts. As regards children's medicines, I have given up the old-fashioned custom of using "vials," as they are so apt to roll, and do not make nearly so neat a parcel as the "flats"; and, owing to the very variable size of ordinary teaspoons, it is better to have the bottles divided by marks, which I find usually very correct. Coloured bottles are useless in the dark, and are generally expensive.

#### LECTURES D. OUT-PATIENT PRACTICE.

"A FINAL MAN," dating from Glasgow University, writes to complain that the out-patient department of the Western Infirmary, which is connected with the University, is open from 2 P.M. onwards; but, as a rule, all the patients have been seen and are away by 3 o'clock. During this hour Professor Leishman meets his class of midwifery (a fourth-year's class), and, consequently, men of that, the "final year," are cut off from all possibility of gaining practical experience in the everyday ailments and diseases which they, as medical men, will so largely meet in private practice. To remedy this great defect the students, through their representative council, sent a petition to the Senate and Professor Leishman asking them to alter the hour of meeting from 2 P.M. to 12 noon, when final men are disengaged, and so permit of their attending the out-patient department. A reply was received declining to accede to this request.

#### PRONUNCIATION OF CASCARA SAGRADA.

MR. HENRY TAYLOR (Guildford) writes: As I hear many people pronounce the word *cascara* with the accent on the second syllable, I conclude that it is not generally known that the word is Spanish, with the accent on the first syllable, and means bark, its diminutive being *cascarilla*. *Cascara sagrada* is the "sacred bark," so-called from its excellent medicinal properties.

ERRATUM.—The suggestion under the head of "Insurance of Children," attributed to Dr. North in our last week's issue, was made by the President of the Yorkshire Association of Medical Officers of Health, Dr. Mitchell Wilson.

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

Dr. Bedford, Edinburgh; W. J. Cameron, M.B., Melbourne; Mr. Adams Frost, London; Dr. Robert Barnes, London; Medical Staff; Dr. L. Cane, Peterborough; Dr. S. Thomson, London; Mr. Kelly, London; Dr. C. R. Drysdale, London; Mr. F. Treves, London; Dr. Duffus, Glasgow; Dr. F. H. Spencer, Wexford; Dr. A. Ambrose, Buckhurst Hill; Mr. R. Steward, Eastbourne; Mr. W. J. Penny, London; Dr. Major Greenwood, London; Mr. H. L. Jones, Bristol; Mr. J. Wickham Barnes, London; Mr. E. G. Archer, Brandon; Mr. T. Moynihan, Belfast; Dr. Sykes, Moxborough; Mrs. S. Theobald, Leicester; Mr. W. Ogle, Derby; W. C. Wicks, M.B., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. H. W. McConnel, Barnstaple; Mr. W. W. Pike, Curragh Camp; Mr. H. Michie, Nottingham; Dr. P. B. Smith, Aberdeen; One Abroad; Dr. A. Goubaroff, Moscow; Look Out; Surgeon-General W. A. Thomson, Simla; Dr. T. Linn, Paris; C. W. R. Wynne, M.B., London; Dr. W. Webb, Wicks; Mr. J. Hinton, Warminster; Dr. Mickel, London; Mr. W. Rivington, London; Mr. R. White, Marden; Mr. H. Maturin, Winchfield; Dr. John Reid, Melbourne; Dr. McCalman, Oporto; Mr. H. W. Allingham, London; Dr. Dedieu, Paris; Dr. C. J. White, Bournemouth; The Secretary of the British Gynaecological Society, London; Dr. Thin, London; Mr. C. F. Bryan, Leicester; Mr. R. C. Harrison, Ealing; Our Berlin Correspondent; Dr. John Johnston, Bolton; Mr. Towers-Smith, London; Dr. James Rankin, Kilmarnock; Dr. A. Whitelegge, Nottingham; A Member; The Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford University; Dr. B. Howard, London; Dr. J. W. Byers, Belfast; F. P. Nichols, M.B., Alderney; Mr. M. C. Brown, Andover; Mr. A. Westland, London; Mr. L. M. Griffith, Clifton; Dr. Thomas Laffan, Cashel; Miss Beachcroft, Brighton; Mr. Collins, London; Mr. T. D. White, London; Mr. E. Hare, Bath; Mr. W. Adams, Ipswich; Mr. W. Stoney, Dublin; Mr. H. C. Burdett, London; Observer; Mr. C. M. Jessop, London; A. D. Keith, M.B., Aboynne; Dr. G. Reid, Stafford; Mr. J. W. Davies, Ebbw Vale; Mr. H. Taylor, Guildford; Mr. A. E. Godfrey, Northampton; Dr. J. Milward, Cardiff; Mr. S. Plowman, London; Mr. W. Roger Williams, London; Mr. H. A. Latimer, Swansea; M. F.

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#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

What shall we have for Breakfast? By Agnes C. Maitland. London: John Hogg. 1889.  
General Index to the Glasgow Medical Journal, from its beginning in 1823, to 1888. Prepared by Malcolm M'Murich, M.A., M.B. Glasgow: A. Macdougall. 1889.  
A Journal of the Great Plague of Marseilles in the Year 1720. By Edward Evan Meeres, M.D. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 1889.  
Knight's Guide to the Arrangement and Construction of Workhouse Buildings. London: Knight and Co. 1889.  
Man and His Maladies, or the Way to Health. By A. E. Bridger, B.A., M.D. London: John Hogg. 1889.  
Lectures on the Errors of Refraction. By Francis Valk, M.D. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1889.  
The Insane in Foreign Countries. By William P. Letchworth. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1889.

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