

many cases of it, and do not remember more than one in a family being attacked. It was evidently not infectious, but was epidemic, and occurred in insanitary dwellings.

Diphtheria had been epidemic and equally deadly three years before; the latter disease is said to be infectious, but of over forty cases then under my care, I have never seen any proof of it being so. If infectious, how does it occur to an infant, the only one so affected in a remote place? All the patients suffering from either disease were young. Mephitic odours were evident in their dwellings, in which many of them, however, had long resided without apparent injury. Is, then, the outburst due to some cumulative or cosmic change of which we know nothing, or is an engendered germ the cause of the deadly evil? Measles become epidemic in a district, but as the first two cases often occur at widely distant places, by what influence does the disease spread, and by what does it subside? Why will a sporadic case of small-pox sometimes refuse to spread under even assumed favourable conditions? The fashionable germ-theory claims too much; no one attributes germs to chloroform in destroying sensation, nor to nitrous oxide in exalting it, nor to carbonic gas in asphyxiating; why then doubt the power of more subtle aerial conditions to produce combinations giving rise to varying epidemics, or doubt a normal restoration of atmospheric state as the cause of their decline? The question of personal propagation of epidemics is essentially interesting to society and to medical men—to the one as interfering with mercantile communications, to the other as bearing especially on medical visits. If germs be pathogenic and live in the outer atmosphere, they could not only thrive in the especial morbid degeneration they create, but having the abundant and ready increase attributed, they could live on all tissues and fill them. If, as Dr. Atkinson says, nurses and servants carry infection, what prevents medical men being equally pernicious? I believe our knowledge of the character of infection is as yet rudimentary.

REFUNDED INCOME-TAX.

S. G. writes: Under the guidance of the Income-Tax Repayment Agency, 25, Colville Terrace, W., I have just succeeded in obtaining refund of over £20. My name and address may be learnt from the above; and I shall be pleased to see any medical *confère* who wishes to "go and do likewise."

AN M.D. DEGREE FOR PRACTITIONERS.

MR. W. A. H. BARRETT (Littleport, Ely) writes: Might not the regulations of the University of St. Andrews be altered so as to admit all registered practitioners to the examination for the M.D. degree, say for the next three years? Then those who did not get a degree would have only themselves to blame. If also the examinations for the M.B. and C.M. were thrown open to all students in the United Kingdom, the necessity for a new university would be done away with. Perhaps the examinations for the M.B. could be held simultaneously in London and other large centres, as is already done by this university for the L.L.A. certificate for women.

"PROPER VACCINATION."

A PUBLIC VACCINATOR writes: I suppose it must be generally admitted that protection afforded by vaccination is in proportion to the number of cicatrices. Then why do "Proper Practitioners" who are not public vaccinators seek to curry favour with their own patients and those of neighbouring practitioners by proposing to make at most two scars and signing certificates of successful vaccination?

I have been nearly fifty years a vaccinator, as I vaccinated regularly during a five years' apprenticeship, and a public vaccinator for over thirty years, and have invariably insisted upon four scars for a successful vaccination, and when the caretakers of the child have refused to allow that number to be made, I have refused to vaccinate at all, and seldom failed to convince the recusants that a larger number than two scars was necessary. But I have been told "Mr. — only makes two spots," and have occasionally in consequence lost my fees.

I cannot help thinking that, to make vaccination the means of annihilating small-pox, it would be necessary to place the office of vaccinator in the hands of one person responsible for a district—large or small, according to circumstances—and receive as satisfactory evidence of vaccination only his certificate.

With regard to the insusceptibility of individuals to receive vaccine influence, during the years I have vaccinated I have never met with such a case. I have had many cases before me which I have been told would not take, but I have never failed to succeed with fresh lymph, and believe arm-to-arm vaccination to be the cure of apparent insusceptibility.

TRAUMATIC TETANUS IN A HORSE TREATED SUCCESSFULLY WITH ANTIPIRYN. SURGEON ARTHUR COTTELL (Chatham) writes: Six weeks ago I saw a bay hunter, 9 years old, suffering from well-marked traumatic tetanus, which first showed itself three days before. He had been "staked" in the near hind frog some three weeks before; an abscess had occurred locally, and was then healed. I ordered 20 grains of antipyrin every fourth hour, night and day, and continued this amount for forty-eight hours, when it was gradually diminished. The drug acted rapidly; the spasms began to yield within four hours of the first dose. He was kept in a darkened coach-house, perfectly quiet, and mashes with eggs and milk were freely given. He is now free from the disease and gaining strength daily. As it is possible that the drug may be found useful in the treatment of human beings for this most obstinate and terrible malady, I hasten to record the above facts.

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

Surgeon Apothecary; Rev. F. Lawrence, York; Mr. W. R. Edmond, Chew Magna; Mr. W. Donovan, Erdington; Mr. H. A. English, London; Dr. C. Macdowell, Carlisle; Mr. D. B. Balding, Royston; Sir V. Kennett-Barrington, London; Dr. W. D. Haslam, London; Dr. G. Le Fevre, Melbourne; Kemp and Co., Bombay; Dr. James Oliver, London; Dr. Hale White, London; Mr. Wickham Barnes, London; Mr. E. M. Anderson, London; Dr. C. B. Fox, Ilfracombe; Dr. F. W. Barry, Settle; Mr. Louis Collins, London; Dr. P. F. Frankland, London; Dr. T. J. Woodhouse, London; Mr. J. Kilner, Bury St. Edmunds; Mr. A. H. Benson, Dublin; The Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., London; Dr. De Bartolomé, Sheffield; Mr. W. E. Porter, Lindfield;

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Hospital Annual, 1889. Edited by Henry C. Burdett. London: The Hospital, Limited.
Lectures on Children's Diseases. By Dr. E. Hensch. Vol. i. Translated from the 4th edition, 1889. By John Thomson, F.R.C.P. London: The New Sydenham Society.
Surgical Bacteriology. By Nicholas Senn, M.D., Ph.D. Edinburgh: Young J. Pentland 1889.

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