

carious, it was the exception rather than the rule that any tenderness or pain was complained of in connection with such teeth; and on extraction in order to open the antrum, it was often found that the fangs had not even perforated the floor of the antrum.

In some cases where the fangs actually protrude into the cavity pus will no doubt be found covering them; but this does not necessarily imply that such a tooth was itself diseased. The experience, however, of various careful observers is so strong in regarding the teeth as a cause of this affection that we are led to the conclusion that empyema of the antrum, like other complaints, may be produced by more than one cause.

The discrepancy which exists can best be explained, as Dr. Macdonald points out in his work on *Diseases of the Nose*, on the supposition that cases in which toothache is the chief symptom find their way to the dentist, while those that are free from this, but suffer from discharge from or obstruction in the nose, are more likely to come under the observation of the nose specialist.

PARACRESOTIC ACID: A CORRECTION.

PROFESSOR M. CHARTERIS (Glasgow) writes: In the article on paracresotic acid, under "Chemical Experiments II," there is an error. "Melting point, 154°," should be 152°. The melting point is given correctly in the tabular statement.

HOLIDAY COLONIES IN GERMANY.

The report of the German Association of Domestic Hygiene, which is under the patronage of Her Majesty the Empress Frederick, states that the total number of children sent into the country by the association for a longer or shorter period of time during 1890 was 2,318, being 309 more than in the previous year. A sum of 39,700 marks (£1,985) was collected by 142 local committees, and the annual contributions had also increased. One hundred and ten medical men gratuitously examined 4,000 children who presented themselves for admission to the "colonies."

LONGEVITY.

IN the country district of Ormskirk one of the medical practitioners discovered that the combined ages of the "first five" cases seen by him last Good Friday morning amounted to 402 years, the patients' respective ages being 71, 87, 74, 74, 93.

"PRIMARY" AND "SECONDARY" IN CERTIFICATES OF DEATH.

MR. W. L'HEUREUX BLENKARNE (Leicester) writes: The leading article in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of March 21st on the above opens up a most interesting question. The words "primary" and "secondary" are certainly very misleading. Take, for instance, the case of a fatal attack of measles in which pneumonia has supervened. According to the ruling of the filling up of the death certificate, measles appears on the top line as the cause of death and by the friends, at any rate, it is understood so, the word "pneumonia" appearing in a "secondary" place, whereas the pneumonia is the real cause of death. Then, again, in a fatal case of pneumonia occurring from a chill, the word "pneumonia" appears on the top line of the death certificate; so here we have the anomaly of the same actual cause of death appearing in the one instance as primary, in the other as secondary.

I would suggest that the words "primary" and "secondary" be done away with altogether, and replaced by the words "immediate" and "contingent." No misunderstanding in filling up the certificate could possibly arise then, and, moreover, these distinctive terms are much more scientific and true, as for instance in the above hypothetical case of measles+pneumonia, where, although the measles is the "primary" (that is, original) cause of the illness, the pneumonia is the "primary" (that is, the chief) cause of the death.

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BOOKS, Etc., RECEIVED.

Medical Symbolism. By Thomas S. Sozinsky, M.D. Philadelphia and London: F. A. Davis. 1891.
The Essentials of School Diet. By Clement Dukes, M.D., B.S. Lond. London: Percival and Co. 1891.
Examination of Water for Sanitary and Technical Purposes. By Henry Leffmann, M.D., and William Beam, M.A. Second Edition. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, and Co. 1891.
La Neurastrénie—Maladie de Beard. Par le Dr. Fernand Levillain. Paris: A. Maloine. 1891.
Biarritz: Bains de Mer, et Ville d'Hiver. Par le Dr. Elevy. Paris: Felix Alcan. 1891.
Report on the State of the Blood and the Blood Vessels in Inflammation. By T. Wharton Jones, F.R.S. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1891.
Behandlung weiblicher Geschlechtskrankheiten. Von Thure Brandt. Berlin: Fischer. 1891.

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