

A LEARNED DOCTOR.

AN American contemporary gives the following as the text of a letter recently received by a consulting physician in the States from a learned brother in some difficulty about the management of a case:—

"DEAR DOCK,—I have a pashunt whose physical sines shows that the windpipe has ulcerated off, and his lungs have drop into his stumick I have given hym everything without effectk his father is welchly honable and influenshal as he is a member of assembly and god nose I dont want to lose hym what shall I do ans by return male. Yours frat, —"

The diagnosis matches the spelling as perfectly as if by some Leibnitzian *harmonia preestabilita* they had been made for each other. If "style is the man," what an ornament to the profession must the author of this edifying document be!

LONG INTERVAL BETWEEN BIRTH OF TWINS

DR. D. A. W. CARMICHAEL (Duness, Sutherlandshire) writes: Apropos of Dr. Hines's remarks in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of March 14th on the long interval between the birth of twins, the following case, which has come under my own observation, may be of interest. While practising in Lochgilphead, I was summoned on a Tuesday to attend a case about six miles distant, and found on arrival a full grown still-born child. After examination I found there was another, but as there were then no pains I left, requesting them to send for me if necessary. On the Monday following I was sent for again, and to my surprise found the woman in labour, which came on a few hours before my arrival. Finding that she made no progress, I applied the forceps. With some difficulty, I delivered her of a living child, six clear days after the birth of the first.

As a student of Leishman's, who recommends leaving to Nature, it occurred to me to communicate to you the foregoing case.

ANTIFEBRIN IN SOLUTION.

DR. J. CHRISTIAN SIMPSON writes: A more extensive use of antifebrin is probably to some extent debarred by its insolubility in ordinary media, and the consequent difficulty of its administration under certain circumstances. It is easier taken in milk than in water, and still better in butter milk, when that can be procured; but it is not generally known that a heated solution of tartaric acid is a ready solvent, and no precipitation takes place on cooling. Being anxious to know whether any change takes place in the composition of the antifebrin when in the tartaric acid solution, I put the question to the *Chemist and Druggist*, and have received the following reply in their issue of March 7th:

"Antifebrin is a very indifferent body, and is not easily decomposed by acids. It is not possible to say, without actual experiment, that decomposition results with tartaric acid, but the probability is that it does not. We can trace no observations regarding the relation of acetanilide to the organic acids. With hydrochloric acid it forms a hydrochloride, which, however, is decomposed by water, and acetanilide is not recovered from it. Taking this and other properties of acetanilide into account, it may be safely inferred that a tartaric acid solution is merely a superior solvent."

WHOOPIING-COUGH IN AN OLD MAN OF EIGHTY-FOUR.

MR. WM. BOULTING, L.R.C.P. Lond. (Hampstead) writes: Cases of whooping-cough in adults are not so very uncommon, and occasionally one meets with the disease in aged people. A leader of the profession had it at 65, and Wm. Heberden the elder observed it in an old woman of 70 and an old man of 80. I recently attended an old man of 84 who had probably contracted it from a little lad lodging in his house. The boy was living on the upper floor. The old man, who is blind but otherwise hale, resides in the basement, and they did not come into personal contact. The attack lasted six weeks, and the whoop was most characteristic. There were no complications. My patient does not remember having had whooping-cough before.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Proclivity of Women to Cancerous Diseases. By Herbert Snow, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1891.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. By R. W. Philip, M.A., M.D. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1891.

Elementary Chemistry. By W. Jerome Harrison, F.G.S. London: Blackie and Son. 1890.

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