

I was able, with the loop of an ecraseur, to make sufficient traction on the presenting leg, and with combined internal pressure on the head and external pressure on the trunk to obtain a foot and breech presentation; as usual in feet presentation, there was a little difficulty in getting the arms down and rotating the trunk and head, but ultimately we produced a fine 8 lb. boy. To-day the mother is alive and the baby a grandfather.

EVOLUTIONAL MORALITY.

DR. G. D. PARKER (Flackwell Heath, Bucks) writes: The note in your issue of April 10th (p. 682), "Impregnatio mulieris artificiosa," is very interesting, and seems to me to open up a very important question of what one might term "evolutional morality." The law of evolution contains within itself the opposite law—that of degeneration, or reversion to type. It is possibly too little appreciated that this law is in operation coincidentally with the other; and it is a law probably easier of execution than that of evolution—"The descent to Avernus is easy." This artificial process seems to me a flagrant breach of the unwritten laws of eugenics. Why should an arrested individual, part of whose anatomy is in an early foetal condition, be helped and encouraged to propagate a probably degenerate and ill developed progeny? It would be profoundly interesting, but, I think, evolutionally profoundly immoral, to encourage a continuance of this special race of degenerates. Quite possibly, in another few thousands of years, we might get a sort of merman—mermaid race—fish-like people, even with external and patent gill clefts. It seems to me less aesthetically disgusting perhaps, but evolutionally as immoral as the late German professor's (Peters's) attempt to mate black women with male gorillas. When it has taken us these millions of years to rise even into our present state of superficial civilization, why try to retrace our steps, not only till we become apes (or ape-like individuals) "with foreheads villainous low," but, later, fish-like creatures, and later still, possibly, pus cells, bacilli, fungi, and eventually fade, like the creations of Prospero in *The Tempest*, "into air, into thin air!" Look to it, eugenisists! What will Major Darwin, one of our greatest authorities, think of this?

BROMISM: THE SODIUM CHLORIDE TREATMENT.

DR. D. R. BLUNN (Leytonstone) writes: With reference to Dr. Semon's memorandum in the JOURNAL of February 27th, and the letter of Dr. Nichol in that of April 3rd, I have found the sodium chloride treatment of bromacne very successful in two cases seen during the last month; in both the patients were not in the habit of taking salt with their food. In my experience a combination of calcium lactate and potassium citrate produces an even more rapid cure than the sodium chloride treatment. I give (thrice daily) calcium lactate gr. x, potassium citrate gr. xx, aq. ad 3j.

PELLAGRA IN NYASALAND.

SINCE the time when pellagra was first recorded as existing in Nyasaland (by Stannus in 1910) little has been done by way of investigating this disease on the spot, a disease which presents a number of interesting problems. Much might be done to solve them if those who have the opportunities of studying so widespread a condition would devote themselves to special points which still remain obscure. Dr. Shelley, medical officer of the hospital and prison at Zomba, has seen the advantages to be gained by observation of pellagrins who, in prison or hospital, are under control as regards regime and diet, and whose cases can therefore be investigated with thoroughness. A start has been made in a report, a copy of which has been sent to us, containing a brief account of certain points which have been impressed upon him. When a Director of Colonial Medical Services is definitely appointed he will be able to do a vast amount of good by issuing instructions as to the lines on which diseases such as this, found in almost every colony and occasionally in England, should be investigated, in order that the results may be properly correlated. Stray observations without strict controls, though entailing much work, produce little result and are therefore wasteful and uneconomical.

MEDICAL TOUR TO THE SPAS AND CLIMATIC HEALTH RESORTS OF ITALY.

DETAILS have reached us concerning the annual international visit of doctors to Italian health resorts, which, as already announced, will take place this year between September 12th and 28th. Among the places to be visited are Abbazia, the sea bathing resort near Fiume; Grado, also a popular seaside resort on the Northern Adriatic coast; the famous Lido (Venice); Abano, a spa close to Padua; Roncigno and Levico (arsenical waters), in the picturesque Trentino; Morano, the garden resort in the Dolomite region; Riva and Gardone, charming places for winter and summer on Lake Garda; and Salsomaggiore, the well known spa. Interpreters will accompany the party in order to assist at the conferences, discussions, etc., which take place during the tour. A limited number of places are reserved for wives and other relatives of the doctors participating. The fee for the whole tour from Abbazia to Salsomaggiore (fourteen days in all), including travel, hotel accommodation, meals at hotels and en route, tips, transport of baggage, etc., is only 1,600 lire—in all about £13. Moreover, tickets at reduced rates will be issued from any Italian frontier station to the starting point of the tour and from the point where the tour terminates to any Italian frontier station. The tour is accompanied by couriers, who take charge of the baggage, attend to all payments, and relieve travellers of all details incident to the tour. From experience of the previous occasion we have no hesitation in

recommending this tour to any readers who contemplate a trip of this kind. Further particulars may be had from the London office of the Italian State Railways and State Tourist Department, 12, Waterloo Place, Regent Street, S.W.1.

PREVENTION OF PUERPERAL SEPSIS.

AN Irish medical practitioner, in the course of a letter on this subject, writes to suggest that more attention should be paid to vaginal disinfection as a prophylactic measure. Cleansing of the lower part of the body is not easy in houses without baths, where the supply of boiled water is limited to a kettleful. He suggests, therefore, that a small cistern, in which a few gallons of water could be quickly boiled by a Primus stove, in country houses, would be most useful. Another boon would be packets of sterilized bed linen and bedgowns. He thinks it unfortunate that the practice of wearing rubber gloves is not yet general among maternity nurses, especially those of the older school and training. He asks also if there is no way of detecting, prior to labour, patients in whom there is liability to puerperal infection. He considers that vaginal douching after labour might well be combined with intrauterine douching as a preventive of sepsis.

SUPRAPUBIC LITHOTOMY.

DR. D. C. OZA (chief medical officer, Morvi State, India) reports two cases of suprapubic lithotomy—one in a man aged 55, the other in a child aged 5. The first patient required preliminary treatment for acute gonorrhoea; the bladder was found contracted and contained a flat stone the size of a small lemon. Before the operation an attempt was made to fill the bladder with boric solution, but not even half an ounce could be retained. The bladder wound healed completely on the eighteenth day of the operation, function was fully restored, and pre-existing incontinence ceased. Complete recovery also followed in the case of the child.

EPIDEMIC ENCEPHALITIS IN JAPAN.

R. KANEKO contributes an account of the epidemic of encephalitis in Japan during 1924 to the *Japan Medical World* of September 15th, 1925 (p. 237). The epidemic as a whole showed distinct differences from encephalitis lethargica, but many typical cases were encountered. Among these were a lethargic type closely resembling encephalitis lethargica; a myelitic type, in which bladder, motor, and sensory symptoms predominated; and an abortive type, with mild symptoms and no loss of consciousness. The length of the incubation period was not determined, but during the prodromal stage, headache, languor, dizziness, insomnia, and pain in the joints, chest, or hips, were present. A rise of temperature was the first sign of the onset. A characteristic disturbance of consciousness occurred sooner or later, varying in degree from lethargy to coma, and lasting from several hours to one or two days; there might be delirium and tremor, or convulsive movements of the hands. Various meningeal symptoms were seen, such as headache, backache, vomiting, stiffness and pain in the neck and extremities, and Kernig's sign. The cerebro-spinal fluid was turbid and under pressure, containing many leucocytes and a trace of globulin. The disease lasted usually one or two weeks; a few patients died within twenty-four hours, but in most cases death did not occur until after several days. In patients who survived the temperature fell in five to ten days, but recovery was very slow in the senile. The following three types of fever were seen: (1) A sudden rise of temperature, with or without prodromes; the general condition then became very grave and there was no remission or fall of the temperature. (2) A gradual rise for two or three days, the temperature remaining high for another two or three days, after which it gradually fell, the pyrexia extending over seven to ten days. (3) A similar rise as in (2), but the fall was sudden. This type was comparatively rare; it occurred in mild cases. Eye symptoms were seldom observed and complications and Parkinsonian sequels were rare. The liver functions were very little affected, in contrast with lethargic encephalitis. The mortality was high, ranging from 38.7 to 55.6 per cent. in different places.

MOTOR CAR ACCESSORIES.

THE Lodge standard sparking plug, whose well known excellence is proof against its maker's designation as "Model C3," has recently been altered, so that, while still withstanding a considerable amount of oil or soot, it has even greater powers of resisting heat. As no soft packing is used inside the plug, it is possible to take it to pieces and reassemble it as often as is required, while the internal joint of steel against copper is easily made gas-tight. By oxidizing the body of the plug and zinc-coating the gland nut, all risk of rusting is avoided. This essential accessory of a car engine must now be as nearly perfect as it is possible to make it.

STEPNEY TYRES LTD. announce a reduction of 10 per cent. in their prices of Stepney motor car and motor cycle covers and tubes, both high pressure and balloon types. The reduction came into effect as from March 29th.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 43, 44, 45, and 48 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 46 and 47.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 132.