

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**** All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.**

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course, not necessarily for publication.

COLD DAMP HANDS.—"SIR: Would some of your physiological readers tell me the philosophy of 'cold damp hands.' It is evidently condensation of what is called insensible perspiration, and has its origin, probably, in feeble arterial circulation—if so, what is required? I rather think that they who know why will not trouble themselves to inform what is called a 'professional brother,' as I consider such fraternal affection is by no means epidemic or endemic. Yours respectfully, VERAX."

DR. MITCHELL.—Our attention has been called to the following advertisement in the *Manchester Examiner*:—

"*New Cure for Deafness.*—We beg to call the attention of our readers to a small work on deafness, by Dr. Mitchell, of Liverpool, being the substance of a communication made by him to the *British Medical Association*. The treatment is novel and ingenious, and in cases fitted for its employment has been eminently successful. It has also the advantage of being perfectly free from danger, or any formidable operation. The author has proved that in a great many cases, which have been said to be nervous, the deafness proceeds from a thickening of the membrane covering the drum of the ear, and by a peculiar treatment Dr. Mitchell removes the thickening, and enables the membrane to vibrate freely again. In true nervous cases, so long considered incurable, considerable relief has been afforded by the means employed, and we strongly recommend those interested to peruse the book.—[ANON.]"

If the gentleman referred to in it is a member of the British Medical Association, we trust that he will take the earliest opportunity of repudiating any connexion with such a proclamation.

G. M.—A correspondent inquires concerning the mode of carrying out the purification of gas according to Mr. Bowditch's plan. We are not aware that Mr. Bowditch's method has yet been taken in hand by any practical fitter-up of apparatus for the purpose. All particulars, however, on the subject will doubtless be found in Mr. Bowditch's work, entitled *A Discourse on Coal Gas*, by the Rev. W. R. Bowditch, published by Van Voorst, of Paternoster-row.

THE OPINION OF A BOARD OF GUARDIANS OF THE QUALIFICATION OF A F.R.C.S.—SIR: I am a surgeon to a dispensary in a rural district, which is attended annually by 600 or 700 patients. To a patient entitled to receive it, I recently recommended that extra relief, in the shape of meat, should be allowed by the Board of Guardians. Although I am a F.R.C.S. Eng., and registered under the Medical Act, and this was a purely surgical case, the Board refused to attend to my recommendation, *solely because* I was not also a L.A.S. Were the Guardians justified in refusing, on these grounds, to grant the extra relief recommended?

I am, etc.,

I. H. R.

East Sussex, Feb. 16, 1861.

[We believe that the Guardians of the Poor are not obliged to attend to the orders of any medical man excepting those of their own appointment. If they do so on any occasions, it must be, so to say, as an act of courtesy. Any sick person receiving relief from the parish must, according to the Poor-law theory, receive it through the medium of the Poor-law officials—the relieving-officer and union medical attendant. The refusal to give extra relief on the order of a Fellow of the College of Surgeons in a surgical case, because the Fellow was not an apothecary also, must have been simply a pretence for not giving the relief at all. One can hardly suppose a Board of Guardians so utterly ignorant of the high professional status of a Fellow of the College of Surgeons, as to fancy that he requires to be a Licentiate of Apothecaries' Hall in order to treat a surgical case effectually.—EDITOR.]

MR. DAYMAN.—Let us hope that the lesson already read to the coroner may not be without some benefit *in futuro*. Further reflection will probably open his eyes to the absurdity of the position he assumed on the occasion referred to.

MR. APPLETON.—Could not our correspondent obtain from the medical attendants a professional account of the interesting and rare cases he refers to?

DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.—SIR: Will you kindly allow me to put the question of your correspondent A. F. in another form, and ask your opinion upon it? Is it etiquette for the medical officer of a charity to visit, prescribe for, and furnish medicine to a pauper patient, without the knowledge or consent of the Poor-law medical officer in attendance on the case? I am, etc., W. W.

[We should say, certainly not, providing the medical officer of the charity was aware that the Poor-law medical officer was in attendance on the pauper patient.—EDITOR.]

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COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Mr. R. C. HURST; Mr. C. H. CORNISH; Mr. P. C. PRICE; Mr. W. JACKSON; Dr. LISTER; Mr. J. C. S. JENNINGS; Dr. BEALE; Dr. GRAILEY HEWITT; Mr. JENNINGS; Mr. ROGERS; Mr. MARTIN; Mr. DAYMAN; Dr. T. K. CHAMBERS; Mr. HUTCHINSON; Mr. NUNNELEY; Dr. SANDWICH; Dr. S. FELCE; Mr. T. MELLOR; and AN OLD MEMBER OF THE WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Course of Lectures on the Physiology and Pathology of the Central Nervous System. Delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in May 1858. By *C. E. Brown-Séquard, M.D., F.R.S. London: Williams and Norgate. 1860.
2. The History of Medicine: Comprising a Narrative of its Progress from the Earliest Ages to the Present Time. By *Edward Meryon, M.D., F.G.S. Volume I. London: Longman and Co. 1861.

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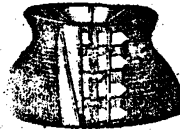
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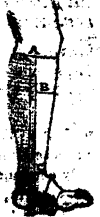
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