

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements for insertion in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** should be forwarded direct to the Publishing Office, 161, Strand, London, addressed to Mr. FOWKE, not later than *Thursday*, Twelve o'clock.

A PLUMSTONE IMBEDDED IN THE RECTUM.

SIR,—On August 8th, I was called to see a young girl aged 13. I found her complaining of great pain in the rectum. The pulse and temperature were normal, but the lips were covered with sordes; and she gave one the impression of suffering from severe constitutional disturbance. The hips and back part of the thighs were covered with what appeared to be bruises. On examining the rectum with the finger, a hard substance was found imbedded in the posterior wall, and with difficulty extracted. It proved to be a plumstone; and it appeared she had eaten freely of plums a week previously. Two days afterwards, she was perfectly well. One could imagine the plumstone setting up peritonitis; but how it could give such a bruised appearance to the surrounding parts and sympathetically affect the mouth, which was dry and feverish, the lips being covered with sordes, and yet the pulse and temperature remain normal, was rather puzzling at first. It is a proof, were one wanting, that cases should never be cursorily examined.—I am, etc.,
Wansford, August 1880. FERGUS M. BROWN, L.R.C.P.Ed.

TURPENTINE AND ACETIC ACID LINIMENT.

SIR,—In answer to "Pharmacist", I think the following will answer his purpose. The yolks of five eggs; oil of turpentine, acetic acid, of each ten ounces; water to fifteen ounces. The yolks should be well blended in a mortar; then add the turpentine and acetic acid gradually, put the ingredients into a bottle of the requisite size, and add the water in small quantities, shaking well each time. This liniment, when properly made, is of an uniform creamy consistence, and does not separate on standing.—Yours truly,
J. H. SCOTT, M.K.Q.C.P.
Tudor House, Camberley, August 12th, 1880.

** In the letter of Mr. O. T. Evans on this subject, at p. 284 of the *JOURNAL* for August 14th, "acid acetic fat" should be "acid. acetic. fort.", or strong acetic acid.

VISITS TO SPA.

SIR,—In answer to several inquiries which I have lately received from professional brethren who propose visiting Brussels on the occasion of the anniversary *fêtes*, will you permit me to say, through your columns, that August and September are, perhaps, the most agreeable months in the year for seeing the Ardennes district, of which Spa is the chief town. Spa is distant from Brussels about four hours by rail, and trains run at short intervals. Comfortable board and lodging can be obtained for fifty francs a week and upwards. To any members of the profession desirous of making acquaintance with this historical district and its important chalybeate springs, I shall be happy to afford any information or assistance in my power.—I am, etc.,
LITTON FORBES, M.D., Resident Physician.
Spa, August 1880.

TINEA SYCOSIS.

SIR,—Would any reader inform me what to do with an intractable case of tinea sycosis? The patient's general health is good, and he is neither strumous nor syphilitic. There is a fresh crop of pustules every morning, and the centre of each is occupied by a hair. Internally, he has had Donovan's solution, arsenic, and sulphide of calcium; externally, citrine ointment, lead in every form, oleate of zinc, oleate of bismuth, iodoform, and sulphur; also, epilation and shaving have been tried in vain.—I am, etc.,
MEDICUS.

CONGESTION OF THE NOSE.

SIR,—In reply to "F.R.C.S.I., Dublin", I would remark that I have, in my own person, found the application of cold to the part very efficacious. My plan is to immerse—so to phrase it—the nose in a basin or large tumbler of cold water (iced, if possible) for five or ten minutes every half-hour, or less, until the burning pain has ceased or been relieved, which generally results after a few applications. No other treatment has been necessary in my own case.—I am, etc.,
M.K.Q.C.P.

SWEATING IN THE HANDS.

SIR,—Would any of your numerous readers kindly inform me what means could be adopted to prevent excessive sweating in the hands? a good many remedies have been tried, but had no effect. The patient, a working man, had to give up his employment in consequence of its deleterious effects on the trade which he followed. It may be mentioned that the feet are in no way subject to sweating.—I am, sir, yours truly,
MEDICUS.

BICYCLING.

SIR,—Can you, or any of the readers of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, inform me if (1) bicycling predisposes one to hernia, when that predisposition does not exist before; and (2) if it be any more dangerous in that respect than horse-riding? I enclose my name and address, and remain, yours truly,
STUDENT.

DAVOS AS A WINTER RESORT.

SIR,—In my letter which you kindly inserted in the *JOURNAL* for August 21st, and which I am sorry was not more carefully looked over before sending, I find I have omitted to state what might, perhaps, influence some who may think of spending the winter in Davos; i.e., that invalids who improve there regain health and strength more quickly than in other places, so that, towards the latter part of the season, they are able to walk up the mountain-paths, drive in open sledges, join in occasional excursions, or spend a great part of the day on the skating-rink; the bright, dry, and still atmosphere enabling them to lead such an out-door life as could not be thought of in England, and is scarcely possible even on the Riviera. I regret that I have no exact record of cases and results of treatment last winter; but I can state from personal knowledge that a very large number certainly did well, especially several of hæmoptysis; the latter seem, on the whole, to derive much greater advantage from residence in the mountain than in the maritime stations. Hoping that future visitors to Davos will have as good reason to be thankful as I have had, I am, yours truly,
St. Leonard's-on-Sea, August 25th, 1880. R. CROTHERS, M.D.

THE "INHUMANITY" OF MEDICAL MEN.

SIR,—Every general practitioner must sympathise with Mr. L. Franklyn in being subject to the remarks made by the foreman of the coroner's jury in the case of Edward May. He seems to me to have acted perfectly fairly and much more humanely than many of us do, and have to do, when our services are suddenly called in to visit at once a person said to be dangerously ill. Mr. Franklyn did not at once refuse to attend without assigning any reason, as, under similar circumstances, numbers of medical men in busy practice must do every day. It is really time that the public should be made fairly to understand that it has no right

to expect, far less to demand, the immediate attendance of medical men at any hour of the day or night without any security being given as regards the trifling matter of "a paltry fee". We often hear of these spurious charges of inhumanity made against our profession by that enlightened section of the public who sit on coroners' juries; but we rarely, if ever, hear the other side. How many of us are disturbed at night to plod through wet and cold quite unnecessarily, and without the remotest prospect of payment? Or, as frequently happens, we find our services were merely called in the hope of avoiding an inquest over some hapless child or chronic invalid, whose sufferings ought to have been attended to days before. Surely our cares and anxieties are enough without being worried by the irresponsible utterances of the foremen of juries, as in the case reported. The remedy is in the hands of the public, who must pay to have an organised system of public succour for emergencies. Provident dispensaries will not meet the case, as a surgeon in extensive practice would have to relinquish his connection with them if he were liable to be called at any but the regular hours; and this would damage the provident system, as the poor are shrewd enough to avoid joining a dispensary if the members of the staff are not men of well-known acquirements and position.—I am, etc.,
A VICTIM.

VACCINATING ECZEMATOUS CHILDREN.

SIR,—I was requested by a gentleman in good social position to see his child, and say whether it was fit for vaccination. I did so, and at once stated that it was not. It was almost covered with eczema. I gave, I think, two certificates of postponement of vaccination, one at the expiration of the time for which the other was granted. During the whole of this time, the child was more or less under treatment for eczema. The father, who had travelled over a considerable portion of the world, and had seen in distant lands the benefits of Jenner's discovery, was anxious to have the child vaccinated; and now another reason was added to those he had before expressed—viz., that his wife was about to have another child, and she wished the vaccination of this one over before the other arrived. I told him that I would rather not then vaccinate the child, in case it did badly; but he was very urgent, and stated that he would accept all responsibility if I would only do it. With considerable hesitancy, I performed the operation in the usual place, which, in fact, was the only part of the arm unaffected with eczema. The case did as well as any case ever could do; good typical pustules were the result, and, to my surprise, the eczema, from the fifth day after vaccination, began to decline. At the same time, I was attending the child of a farmer, about three months old, with eczema covering the whole of the face and head. I mentioned the above case to him and his wife, being anxious to have the vaccination over. I vaccinated the child, the parents accepting the responsibility, and the result was as in the former case. The child did well, and eczema soon disappeared. Some months after this, I vaccinated the eczematous child of a farm-labourer, and the result was equally satisfactory. The success of these cases soon got noised abroad; and two or three medical men, who had been applied to by the parents of eczematous children, wrote to me to ask if it were true that I vaccinated under such circumstances. To all, I answered that I had done so with good results, but that I would not advise them in the matter; they must do so on their own responsibility, and that nothing would induce me to vaccinate an eczematous child unless the parents accepted the weight of the proceeding on their own shoulders.—I am, sir, yours obediently,
3, Bucklersbury, August 24th, 1880. C. D. HILL DRURY, M.D.

* It would certainly be unwise to draw any general conclusions from so limited an experience.

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