

than myself, or more ready to admit the baneful consequences resulting therefrom; but to affirm that the abuse of an article is a reason for its prohibition, betrays a lamentable want of common sense.

With regard to "the extracts accompanying this appeal," I will only remark that if they appear with the sanction of the gentlemen whose names they bear, in my opinion, it is to be regretted that persons of their standing should allow themselves to be associated with a publication whose only characteristics were its virulence and its mendacity. I may be excused for not attaching much importance to these sensational effusions, when I can recall to mind the fact that similar testimonials were not wanting at the time when the late Dr. Todd promulgated a totally different theory.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
Brentwood, September 1st, 1880. BENJAMIN BAKER, M.R.C.S.E.

#### DISEASE AMONG LEAD-WORKERS.

SIR,—In your issue of September 4th, you request information from members concerning disease attacking lead-workers, and suggestions for its amelioration. May I direct your attention to a paper read by me before the Association at Sheffield, and published in the JOURNAL of Saturday, October 14th, 1876? I do this as I remember, a week or two after that date, a letter appeared in the JOURNAL showing that, where patients suffering from lead-poisoning are placed in a hot bath, they obtain a great deal of relief; and that, on testing the water of the bath, lead was found in it. In my paper, read some time before this letter appeared, I spoke of the great advantage of hot baths (Turkish baths); and though I could speak so surely of the relief afforded to chronic cases by their use, I was not aware that that was effected by the abstraction of lead from the tissues. I think you will find in that paper a full *resumé* of the disease, and my idea of its treatment; and I have had a number of cases. I believe it is the custom in all these lead-works to make a drink of dilute sulphuric acid and syrup for the workmen and workwomen; and I find that they are too idle or thoughtless to drink it. They often, also, take their food with unwashed hands, and so eat a quantity of the carbonate and dextroide of lead that is on their hands, and is thence rubbed on the food.—I am, yours truly,  
W. HOLDER.

10, Somerstown, Holderness Road, Hull, September 7th, 1880.

#### TREATMENT OF INCONTINENCE OF URINE.

SIR,—I cannot perceive the merit of the mixture prescribed by Dr. Robert Arthur Jones for the treatment of nocturnal urinary incontinence. It may be well to remind him that liquor potassæ annihilates the active principles of belladonna, and that any combination of the two drugs is (as far, at least, as the belladonna is concerned) absolutely inert. The prescription alluded to appeared in your last impression, and ran as under: R Tincture belladonnæ, *B. P.*, 5ss; liquoris potassæ (Braxd), 5ss; glycerini 5ij; aquam ad 5viij. Ft. mist.—I am, yours truly,  
Richmond Hill, Clifton, September 15th. GEORGE BRIND (Junior).

#### TINEA SYCOSIS.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent "Medicus," I may mention that there are two distinct varieties of sycosis—one non-parasitic, the other parasitic—and I conclude his patient is suffering from the parasitic variety, as that alone is tinea sycosis. The diagnosis is easy, as the diseased hairs in tinea sycosis—which are often broken off short, as in ringworm of the head—will be found to exhibit the usual fungus under the microscope. Very often, the disease will spread beyond the beard on to the face or neck, and show the ordinary characters of tinea circinata. Tinea sycosis generally spreads all over the beard, while the non-parasitic variety is often restricted to a certain portion. The hairs in the former affection can generally be extracted without pain. The best plan is to epilate freely, and employ some mild parasiticide. I have found the constant application of oleate of mercury (5 per cent. solution) the most effectual remedy, combined with frequent and careful epilation of all diseased hairs and stumps. The oleate must be freely rubbed into the roots of the hairs, night and morning, with a small sponge mop. When the fungus is thoroughly destroyed, by the oleate soaking to the bottom of the follicles, the healthy hair will appear, and the scabs, etc., can be removed by simple treatment. It is most important to remember—as in ringworm of the scalp—that the difficulty is not to find some parasiticide that will destroy the fungus, but to bring the remedy into contact with it. The conidia penetrate to the very bottom of the follicles, and into the bulbs of the hairs; therefore it is impossible to reach them by ordinary remedies simply applied to the skin, as the hairs plug the follicles into which we require the parasiticide to enter. We must therefore select a remedy that will penetrate deeply into the follicles, viz., oleate of mercury. During the last year, I have had a severe case of tinea sycosis under the above treatment; it is now perfectly well.—I am, etc.,  
September 4th, 1880. ALDER SMITH, M.B., F.R.C.S.,  
Resident Medical Officer Christ's Hospital.

SIR,—Replying to the query of "Medicus" in your issue of September 4th, I beg to say that I have seen a most intractable case of sycosis perfectly cured, when almost every other means had been tried unsuccessfully, by thoroughly rupturing each pustule by thrusting in a sharpened piece of wood first dipped in the glycerinum acidi carbolici *P. B.* The acidum carbolicum so applied appears to destroy effectually each focus of the disease. The treatment, which is somewhat painful, must be persisted in as long as pustules continue to reappear.—Yours, etc.,  
September 4th, 1880. L.K.Q.C.P.

#### MIDWIFERY AMONGST PAUPERS IN SCOTLAND.

SIR,—Are parochial medical officers in Scotland obliged to attend pauper midwifery cases where there is no special arrangement made between the parochial board and surgeon for such events? If the surgeon attend, is he entitled to an extra fee? and, if so, what? An answer will much oblige.—Yours sincerely,  
R. A. M.

\* We consider that, in rural districts, etc., where the services of a midwife are not obtainable, the parochial medical officer, in accepting the position, accepts all obligations appertaining thereto; obviously, attendance on women in labour forms part of such duty, though it may not have been specifically referred to. As regards the fee that can be claimed from the parochial board, we hold that it is the same as that which holds here, and that is a fee varying from 10s. 6d. to £2 2s., according to the nature and gravity of the case.

A. K. B. will find the information he requires in Barnes's *Lectures on Obstetric Operations*.

#### EDUCATION FOR ORPHAN DAUGHTERS OF MEDICAL MEN.

D. M. R. wishes to know if there is any school where the orphan daughters of medical men are admitted at a reduced rate.

MR. T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, Birmingham, states that he was present at Cambridge at the meeting of the Council of the Association for 1880-81; we regret that his name does not appear in the list of members present, which was published in the JOURNAL of the 4th instant.

**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*.

#### EVIDENCE AT CORONERS' INQUESTS.

SIR,—On Monday morning last, I was subpoenaed to give evidence at the inquest to be held on "Morris and others," victims of the Nine Elms accident. On arriving, I inquired of the summoning officer whether I was to give evidence on all the four deceased persons who had been under my observation at St. Thomas's. He replied, "You confine yourself to Morris and Lee; I have done the other two." I was rather surprised at the time, and that surprise was increased by reading in the papers the following morning that the officer had, after examination of the deceased persons, given evidence of the injuries received, and expressed his opinion that they were sufficient to cause death.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
CHARLES BALLANCE, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S.

St. Thomas's Hospital, September 22nd, 1880.

An inquest was recently held at Mexborough, before Mr. Dossy Wightman, coroner, on the body of a young man named Dennis Greaves, aged 18, a watchmaker by trade, who met with his death, it was supposed, whilst holding his head from the railway carriage window, his head coming in contact with the girder of a tunnel. There was a lengthened inquiry, but, strange to say, the medical man (Dr. Sykes) who was summoned to the station, and saw the deceased within ten minutes of death, was not called, and no medical evidence was given beyond that supplied by the police-constable, who was interrogated, and gave his opinion as to the nature of the wounds and the cause of death; the coroner stating, in answer to an inquiry of one of the jurymen, that there would be no medical witness, as there was no doubt of the cause of death.

#### COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:—

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#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Diseases of Women. By J. J. Reynolds, M.R.C.S. Eng. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1880.  
On Removal of the Entire Tongue. By Edward Lund, F.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1880.  
On Atrophy of the Stomach, and on the Nervous Affections of the Digestive Organs. By S. Fenwick, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1880.  
The Ocean as a Health-Resort, for the use of Tourists and Invalids. By W. S. Wilson, L.R.C.P. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1880.  
The Science and Practice of Midwifery. By W. S. Playfair, M.D. Vols. i and ii Third Edition. London: Smith, Elder, and Co., 15, Waterloo Place, S.W.

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