

BRACHIAL NEURALGIA.

SIR,—If "Inquirer" will try a solution of iodine made as follows, and without any spirit, I think his patient will derive some benefit. Iodi gr. xl; potassii iodidi gr. i; aquam ad ℥iv. The affected part to be freely painted twice a day for a week with a brush. If tried, I should be pleased to know the result.—I am, etc.,
Fareham, Hants. W. F. BROOKS.

SIR,—“Inquirer” is advised to try the application of chloral-hydrate of camphor, a term which I apply to the compound prepared by the saturation together of equal quantities by weight of chloral-hydrate and camphor until fluidification is effected. A marble mortar is used for the purpose. The application may be repeated every four or six hours by means of a camel's-hair brush. He should also apply a hot poultice, made of "crushed linseed". If a calico bag be used, it may be reapplied when cold by simply subjecting it afresh to the heat of boiling water, and so on for a whole day, without the necessity of renewing the crushed meal.

"Inquirer" is further advised not to rest altogether satisfied with local treatment, but to have an eye to the necessity of rectifying, or at least bringing the chylopoietic viscera within a therapeutic intention; as the local sensations complained of may be—and, as I think, are—in a measure symptomatic, as well as sympathetic, of something occult hereabouts.

If the hypodermic use of morphia in the neighbourhood of the seat of pain have not been tried, this should be done at once, taking the precaution to adjust the quantity of morphia to the age of the patient. Before puberty, and subsequently to the age of thirty-five, this medicament is not well tolerated beyond the third of a grain by subcutaneous introduction.

Assuming no amelioration of the case from recourse to the measures suggested, then I advise the limb to be fixed for a time.—I am, etc.,
November 11th, 1880. A PRACTITIONER OF LONG STANDING.

VACCINATION FOR CHRONIC ECZEMA.

SIR,—I have read with considerable interest the correspondence on this subject. I think it has been fairly proved that vaccination frequently acts as a cure for chronic eczema in children. Is revaccination likely to be equally efficacious in the cure of chronic eczema in adult life? I have a patient who has hitherto resisted all treatment; and I cannot find that it is caused by gouty or other diathesis, and the patient is otherwise in robust health. I shall be glad to have the opinion of some of the more experienced members of the profession on this point.—I am, yours truly,
A. YOUNG SURGEON.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

SIR,—Referring to the letter of Dr. Phillips, in the JOURNAL of the 13th, under the above heading, allow me to state that the mode of remuneration for professional services, which he proposes for adoption, has long been followed in the colony of Newfoundland. At St. John's, as well as at the out-harbours, medical men are paid by annual fees for all ordinary attendance and medicine; midwifery and surgical cases counting as extras. The system is found to work satisfactorily. Each family knows the approximate amount of its liability, and is enabled to meet the indebtedness the more easily on that account. To the practitioner, a stated sum is in this way assured, and he knows the amount of his income. Not only does it serve to lighten the doctor's labours by promoting the earliest attendance on all cases of illness, but it gives him a freedom to make unasked-for calls when most convenient to himself, and enables him to impress upon his *clients* the importance of sanitation and preventive medicine. The system of annual attendance favours the continued visits of the practitioner during the period of recovery, when he might otherwise hesitate to keep the same vigilance over his convalescent patient, knowing how jealous even the wealthier class is of incurring what they consider unnecessary expense.

The medical year in Newfoundland begins on the first of November, and it very rarely happens that there are defaulters on the doctor's list. If they fail to pay their dues, they know that subsequent attendance will be charged for at remunerative rates. The smaller dues paid by single fishermen are guaranteed by the "planters", or merchants, in whose service they are engaged. It was probably in this way that the annual system originated there; and the extension of the club practice and the increase of provident dispensaries in this country tend to favour the adoption of a similar mode of payment here. I have known the system of annual payments of a stated sum to have been partially followed elsewhere than in the colony referred to, but it was by private arrangement, and not, as there, the general custom.—I am, etc.,
JAMES R. DE WOLF, M.D. Edin.
Ilfracombe, November 15th, 1880.

Nature states that Professor Graham Bell has been well received in the scientific circles of Paris during the past week. He exhibited his photophone at the establishment of M. Antoine Breguet, and elsewhere, and was the object of much curiosity wherever he went as *l'homme qui fait parler la lumière*.

THE PATHOLOGY OF SEA-SICKNESS.

SIR,—I remember somewhere to have seen a more rational, if not a more simple, description of the pathology of sea-sickness than that given by Dr. Whittle; but in what periodical, or who was the author of the paper, I cannot now call to mind. Quoting from memory, it was stated that sea-sickness was caused by the disturbing influence of the ship's motion upon the supply of blood to the brain. The blood in the vessels of the body is a fluid contained in tubes, and therefore possesses a *vis inertiae* of its own; consequently, in the descent of the ship, the blood in the arteries would be driven with greater force into the brain than when the body is at rest in the normal state; and *vice versa*, in the ascent of the ship, the heart's action and the elastic recoil of the arteries would be, to a certain extent, neutralised by the *vis inertiae* of the blood-column; the pressure of blood upon the brain being greatest at the beginning of each descent of the ship, and least at the beginning of each ascent of the ship, as the blood-column would continue falling after the body had commenced its ascent, and continues rising after the body had commenced its descent. This unequal supply of blood to the brain causes an irritable condition of that organ, and consequent sickness.

This theory can more readily be reconciled with the facts of sea-sickness than can Dr. Whittle's theory, "that the turbulent action of the sea interrupts the normal slow and circular motion, substituting for it a rapid jumping up and down of the contents of the stomach"; it also explains and suggests the benefit derived from rational treatment, *viz.*, rest in the recumbent position, if possible, with the head and feet towards the sides of the ship; and also a large dose of bromide of potassium, given about two hours before starting on a voyage, to make the brain-cells less susceptible to sources of irritation.

No doubt, as Mr. James Turton says, the disturbing influence upon the sensorium of a number of objects passing in quick succession before the sight, would aid in producing the brain-irritation and sickness.—Faithfully yours,
West Bromwich, November 15th, 1880. THOMAS SANSOME.

GLOVES FOR WET WEATHER.

SIR,—In answer to J. T. K.'s inquiry, I have found the coarsely knitted woollen gloves of mixed colours, now much worn, most suitable for cold and wet weather.—Yours, truly,
BERNARD ROTH, F.R.C.S.

18, Grand Parade, Brighton, November 15th, 1880.

ERRATUM.—In the notice of Lawley's Surgical Packet-Case, at page 782 of last week's JOURNAL, the name of Mr. Lawley of the Strand was put by mistake for Messrs. Lawley and Son of Farringdon Street.

H. R., Bristol.—The request shall be attended to.

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

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Practical Histology and Pathology. By H. Gibbs, M.B. London: H. K. Lewis. 1880.

The Descriptive Atlas of Anatomy. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1880.

Function of Vision and its Anomalies. By Dr. Giraud-Teulon; translated from the French by Lloyd Owen, F.R.C.S.I. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1880.

Note-Book of Materia Medica, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics. By R. E. Scoresby-Jackson, M.D. Fourth edition, revised and brought down to the present date, by Dr. Francis W. Moinet, F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: MacLachlan and Stewart. 1880.

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