

### PARAFFIN SPLINTS.

SIR,—When Mr. John Glaister says that Dr. Macewen, of Glasgow, first drew the attention of the profession to paraffin splints in August 1878, he clearly has omitted to notice that their introduction is of a much earlier date. If he will turn to the *Medical Times and Gazette* for November 3rd, 1866, he will find a full description of the use of paraffin for this purpose, and full details of the process, by yours truly,  
LAWSON TAIT.

Birmingham, December 4th, 1880.

MR. ENOCH ROBINSON writes, with reference to a reply to "Puzzled," in last week's number, virtually to acknowledge that, "in the attempt to make the memorial as brief as possible," he attributed to Mr. Ernest Hart, as the author of the *Truth about Vaccination*, opinions which were obviously those of Dr. Dixon of Bermuda-sey. We do not profess to understand, how for the sake of conciseness it is necessary to ascribe opinions to one writer, that evidently belong to another; and would suggest to Mr. Robinson, whether on future occasions, it might not be better to sacrifice brevity rather than accuracy.

### GLOVES FOR COLD AND WET WEATHER.

**GLOVES FOR COLD AND WET WEATHER.**—**ECONOMICES** writes:—It is evident that in our variable climate no kind of gloves will ever do for long. For fine days, and walking, a pair of dog-skin, calf, or cloth are best; for driving, a thick pair of the latter, specially adapted for extra pieces for the friction of the reins; for very cold days, thick worsted or whipcord ones (procured at Bury's Broad Street, Birmingham); and for best or visiting purposes, the best kid are well adapted. A pair of each sort I keep in stock in a glove box in my hall, next hat stand, and each morning select the pair most adapted for the day's work; often I change three or four times a day. The same may be said of clothes. I have five or six suits, and four or five great coats. A cold and wet day, and no very important or aristocratic patients to see, an old suit and great coat are best adapted. A fine day, and important cases to see, it is well to dress better, lighter clothes and better ones must be worn; whilst for night-work, and low midwifery, something that can never be made worse than it is. I have in the same way hats adapted to the most continuous rains, or for the brightest day.

J. S. H. (Sittingbourne).—Dr. Sayre has published a full account of his method of treating spinal deformities, and the cases for which it is most applicable, in a volume on the subject issued by Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., 15, Waterloo Place, S.W.

DR. HADDON is referred to proceedings of the Committee of Council of October 13th, reported in the JOURNAL, page 679, where he will find that a subcommittee was appointed, including all the gentlemen named, to consider how best the object of obtaining collective action could be obtained.

### SCHOOL-SHIPS FOR BOYS OF THE UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES.

SIR,—With reference to the above, I made a similar suggestion in 1869 (*vide Lancet*, April 26th). Perhaps the committee of the training ship *Worcester*, for which they have not sufficient use and funds, would be disposed to combine the two, making it serviceable for both purposes.—Yours faithfully, W. H. TAYLER, M.D.  
Tudor House, Anerley, S.E., December 8th, 1880.

Tudor House, Anerley, S.E., December 8th, 1880.

DR. PAUL DE LA RANCÉE asks through Dr. Bankart, of Exeter, for indication of the best sources in which to study the vital and meteorological statistics of Ireland and Scotland. He writes: "I wish to obtain documents on these different points, of a really scientific character, with the object of making a climatological study of Ireland and a demographic study of Scotland and Ireland. Can statistics of the great hospitals of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin, be obtained specially relating to diseases causing death?"

ERRATA.—In the JOURNAL of last week, p. 929, column i, line 4 from bottom, for "Ventnor", read "Ryde". In page 956, column i, between lines 4 and 5 from bottom, insert "Ireland (North). John Moore, M.D., Belfast".

### EASY TEST FOR ARSENIC IN FABRICS.

THE following plan is recommended by Dr. Henry Barnes, in the *Practitioner*, as an easy plan to detect arsenic in paper-hangings or any other suspected fabric. Immerse the suspected paper in strong ammonia on a white plate or saucer; if the ammonia becomes blue, the presence of a salt of copper is proved; then drop a crystal of nitrate of silver into the blue liquid, and if any arsenic be present, the crystal will become coated with yellow arseniate of silver, which will disappear on stirring.

### MANAGEMENT OF THE THIRD STAGE OF LABOUR.

SIR,—I desire to elicit the experience of some of my brethern with regard to their management of the above stage of labour. I was taught that of "expression" and always try it, but only once succeeded in seeing "the uterine surface of the placenta expelled first". Those with whom I have conversed know what is meant by "expression", but have no practical knowledge of it. Dr. Playfair tells us, in very simple language, how to perform it. Nothing could apparently be easier; but why any difficulty in effecting it? "*When the uterus is felt to harden*"—in italics—there "*strong and firm pressure should be made*", etc.; but I have never felt this hardening. I give a drachm of ergot after delivery, and have waited half-an-hour for it to take effect, but have neither felt the womb to contract, nor, on questioning the patient, has she experienced any pain. I must add that the ergot is from the Apothecaries' Hall, and, therefore, trustworthy. My experience is, that if there be pains after delivery—or, in other words, uterine contractions—the placenta is expelled easily enough; but if not, then "expression", or ergot, or both of them, fail to produce them, and the introduction of the hand into the uterine cavity becomes a necessity. Traction on the cord seems to me as if it would result in my obtaining possession of the cord, but not of the after-birth.—Yours faithfully,

PLACENTA.

PLACENTA.

SURGEON should decline to practise in the town, unless he have the full permission of the representatives of the practitioner for whom he is now acting as *locum tenens*. A *locum tenens* often binds himself not to practise subsequently within a definite radius of the practitioner whom he represents; and even in the absence of such stipulation "Surgeon" will do well to observe its spirit. Were it known that he would return to the town, the practitioner's representatives could not dispose of the town so advantageously as in "Surgeon's" complete absence, and his return is in honour bound to do nothing which can militate against the interests of his employer or his friends, especially when that employer is suffering bodily illness. Besides, if "Surgeon" has, in a few weeks, rendered himself so appreciated by the patients that they desire him to remain with them, he may reasonably suppose that he could do equally well elsewhere. The wide world is open to him for practice, and it is desirable that he should not remain in, nor subsequently return to the place where he now is, when once his present engagement shall have ceased.

## PARISH OR DISTRICT NURSE.

SIR,—The cost of maintaining a district nurse is usually about £75 to £85 per annum. The cost varies with the locality. Experience seems to prove that it is best to put the district nurse on board wages. If her rooms are furnished, then 20s. a-week is usually allowed for board and lodging. Were I to give the rules, it would occupy too much space. Mr. Lee Jardine had, therefore, best write to the Honorary Secretary, the Cottage Hospital, Brockley, Northamptonshire, who will send him what he requires on this head.—I am, etc., HENRY C. BURDETT.  
Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, S.E.

Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, S.E.

DR. A. P.—Shall have early publication.

## HOSPITAL DRAINAGE AND VENTILATION.

SIR,—I shall be glad to show "T." the system we have adopted at the Home Hospital, Fitzroy House, Fitzroy Square; and to give him particulars of other systems if he will write to me, and send his name and address.—I am, etc.,

HENRY C. BURDETT.

Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, S.E., December 1st, 1880.

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

Mr. Stanford Harris, Manchester; Subscriber: Dr. J. M. Finny, Dublin; Mr. Enoch Robinson, Dukinfield; Dr. John Hadden, Eccles; Dr. C. E. Glascott, Manchester; Mr. F. J. Hanbury, London; Dr. W. Johnston, Leicester; Mr. W. Fearnley, London; Mr. R. Jeffreys, Chesterfield; Dr. Gage Parsons, Bristol; Mr. Taylor, Bocking; Dr. Edward Houghton, London; Dr. J. Mitchell, Barnard Castle; T. H.; Mr. G. R. Gilruth, Edinburgh; Mr. Croft, London; Dr. Wynn Williams, London; Dr. H. G. Orlebar, London; Dr. W. Snowden, Philadelphia; Mr. G. Bradford, Harrow; Mr. J. R. Stevens, Glasgow; A Provincial Physician; Dr. J. F. Nicholson, Hull; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Dr. J. C. Reid, Newbiggin-by-Sea; Dr. H. Gervis, London; Dr. A. E. Sansom, London; Pars pro Toto; Inquirer; Mr. R. Lankester, London; Mr. J. Cooper Forster, London; Dr. Hirschberg, Berlin; Dr. A. Collie, London; Dubious; Mr. G. H. Fenwick, Leipzig; Mr. A. H. Jones, Peckham; Mr. C. G. Hobbes, Bedford; Mr. Noble Smith, London; Dr. M. Collins, Scarborough; Dr. H. Fuller, Winchester; A Member; Mr. T. S. Hutchinson, Newington; Mr. Eustace Firth Denham; Dr. A. Emrys-Jones, Manchester; (Economicus; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Dr. Byrom Bramwell, Edinburgh; Mr. J. J. Purnell, Brixton; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. W. Donovan, Whitwick; Dr. G. W. Gilroe, Edinburgh; Mr. James Logan, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. W. Walter, Manchester; Mr. A. W. Postans, London; Dr. W. A. Cox-Hippisley, Leicester; Mr. R. Clark, Lancaster; Mr. T. S. Smith, London; Dr. John Moore, Belfast; Mr. C. Ashenden, Hastings; Calculator; Mr. H. Richardson, Bristol; Mr. R. Fabre, London; Miss Yates, London; Mr. W. D. Watson, London; Mr. C. E. Richmond, Warrington; Dr. J. Goldsmith, Worthing; Dr. Prosser James, London; Dr. J. A. Goodchild, Bordighera; Dr. D. Hart, Edinburgh; Dr. W. Stirling, Aberdeen; Mr. Austin, London; Mr. R. Lever, Oxford; Dr. David Newman, Glasgow; Mr. A. Lees, Stroud; Dr. J. G. Wilson, Glasgow; Mr. Wilkes, London; Dr. Longmore, London; Mr. MacNab, Stirling; Dr. F. P. Atkinson, Kingston-on-Thames; Dr. G. Whyte, Elgin; Dr. W. Hay, Hull; T. S. P.; Dr. Litton Forbes, Rome; Dr. Fawcett, York; Dr. Partridge, Stroud; Dr. Tripe, London; Dr. Neale, London; etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Peruvian Bark. By C. R. Markham, C.B., F.R.S., London: J. Murray, Albemarle Street, 1880.

Handbook of Chemical Physiology and Pathology. By F. C. Vaughan, M.D. Third Edition. Ann Arbor Printing and Publishing Company. 1880.

A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Women. By T. G. Thomas, M.D. London: H. Kimpton. 1880.

Report of the International Congress on the Education of the Deaf. London: W. H. Allen. 1880.

Food for the Invalid. By J. Milner Fothergill, M.D. London: Macmillan and Co. 1880.

Lectures on Surgical Disorders of the Urinary Organs. By R. Harrison, F.R.C.S.  
London: J. and A. Churchill. 1880.

Transactions of the Clinical Society of London. Volume 30th. London: Longmans Green, and Co. 1880.

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