

CORRESPONDENTS are particularly requested by the Editor to observe that communications relating to advertisements, changes of address, and other business matters, should be addressed to the Manager, at the Journal Office, 161A, Strand, London, and not to the Editor.

EDUCATION OF BOYS.

SIR,—I have a theory on this subject, and, like most other people, I am more or less dissatisfied with education as it is at present conducted. The main idea of education at present is to fit a boy for passing some competitive examination, without much regard to his moral or physical fitness to discharge the still more important duties of a lifetime.

The effect of this sort of training is very often disastrous; and I for one am greatly interested in the subject, as I have a child whose education, I hope, in a year or two, will have to be commenced in earnest; and the thought of it often makes me, I can assure you, exceedingly perplexed and unhappy. My theory is, that a regular trade, such as a carpenter's or blacksmith's, should form a part of every child's education. Can any of your correspondents give their ideas on this matter, and also kindly inform me whether there is any good place of education in England, Germany, or elsewhere, where this has been seriously tried?

My reasons for this theory are briefly these. 1. As nothing is so honourable as to earn one's living by the honest labour of one's hands, I think it is unjust to one's children not to place them in a position where this is possible. This reason is not merely sentimental; in these revolutionary days, it has a practical meaning. 2. I think that such a system would have an excellent moral and physical effect. Without disparaging many athletic games, these cannot be said to take the place of a real trade. 3. In these days, when so many men are obliged to go to the colonies, it is well known that a thorough practical knowledge of a trade is at times simply invaluable.—I am, etc., M.D.

DR. LUCAS desires to express his regret that his communication to this JOURNAL (February 26th, 1881) would seem to have unwittingly and unintentionally caused offence to some of his medical brethren of the British Medical Service. When he wrote that, "if only a part of the time devoted to sports and the like were spent in meditation over cases which have been under treatment, much good would likely to be the result", he simply said in good faith that a part at least of one's leisure hours may be devoted to the work aforesaid. He also expressed the hope that official reports and returns be often placed at the disposal of medical journals, "either for publication *en extenso*, or for texts for leading articles", *in re* the important subject of typhoid fever.

THE EFFECTS OF THE BICYCLE ON THE VENOUS CIRCULATION.

SIR,—As a correspondent, in the last issue of the JOURNAL, desires an expression of opinion on the above subject, I shall be glad, if you will permit me, to briefly discuss this question, to which I have given some attention.

I have known many bicyclists in different parts of this country very intimately, and I have had several of them under treatment for ordinary diseases; in each case I made careful inquiry, and often an examination, to see what were the effects of the exercise on the vascular and muscular systems. My experience is, that moderate riding is beneficial to both. Severe straining for long at once, as in bicycle matches, is disastrous to veins whose coats are originally weak in structure. It is the learner, eager and reckless to get along, who suffers most. The skilled rider, going at a pretty good rate of speed, is only enjoying healthy exercise. Why, indeed, should it be otherwise? The column of blood in the veins is divided by valves, which save the walls of the veins from the pressure of the whole column. It is inaccurate to say that the valves are intended to do away with the obstacle presented by gravitation. This obstacle has no existence, since the column of blood in the veins is supported by the force and weight of the column of blood in the arteries. The action of the valves, with that of the surrounding muscles, powerfully assist venous circulation. When a vein is compressed by an adjoining muscle in a state of contraction, the first pair of valves in the direction of the capillaries close immediately; the blood is then forcibly driven in the direction of the heart. It is thus clearly manifest that the rapid succession of muscular contractions, and not their duration, assists the venous circulation. This is abundantly demonstrated by the continual pressure of the gravid uterus and loaded rectum being prominent and well established exciting causes of varicose veins. Billroth, writing on venescence, states: "A way of helping the flow is to cause the patient to open and shut the hand rhythmically, so that the blood may be forced on by the muscular contractions" (vol. i, page 182).

Varicose veins are found in people of every calling in life. Many points have been strained at different times to account for their production. I cannot see why any careful observer can doubt that inheritance is the prime cause—as much so, I believe, as in scrofula or in syphilis. I deny that bicycling can produce a varicose condition of the veins of the legs without a pre-existing inherent tendency in the veins to become varicose; given this tendency, or diathesis, moderate bicycling will strengthen the coats of the veins, in proportion as it improves the general bodily health; but the moment moderation is exceeded, an element of danger usurps the place of safety.—I am, sir, your humble servant,

LICHFIELD, July 18th, 1881. JOHN LOWE.

MR. W. R. DAVIES (Sandbach).—A gentleman who is L.R.C.P., L.S.A., and L.F.P.S.Glas., has no legal right to be addressed other than as Esquire, as neither of these licences confer the title of "Dr.". This has been repeatedly decided by the various bodies concerned, and accords with the state of the law.

ICHTHYOSIS.

THIS, to his assistant, from a leading practitioner who is off on a little fishing excursion: "Tell everybody I am off to the country in attendance upon a bad case". "But patients are so curious," was the response; "what shall I say of the case? give it a name". "Well, call it—let me see; yes—call it a case of ichthyosis".—*American Paper*.

PUBLIC LATRINES AND LAVATORIES.

SIR,—I have read with great interest the letter from "B. P. L.", published in your issue of the 9th instant, with reference to the necessity of establishing latrines and lavatories for public use. As a reply thereto, I have the honour to forward for your notice a paper, which, whilst treating generally the question referred to, points out a remedy for the existing evil. This remedy, which is being organised as rapidly as possible, will, I trust, win the valued approval of the medical profession, and at the same time secure the hearty support of the general public. Should your correspondent, or anyone else interested in this important question, favour me with a call, I should be happy to exhibit the models of the chalets now in course of erection, and to explain further the working of our enterprise.—I am, sir, yours, etc., ALF. WATKINS, General Manager to Chalet Company, Limited.

17 Buckingham Street, Strand, July 11th, 1881.

ON GOUT: A FEW QUESTIONS.

SIR,—Has anyone known a case of nonagenarian being afflicted with gout? and what phase it assumed? (In octogenarians it is frequent.) What is the average duration of an attack, if left without remedial treatment? How many attacks *per annum* may be reasonably expected, if ordinary diet—nitrogenous, farinaceous, and alcoholic diet be adopted? Has a simple farinaceous regimen a decided effect in checking the frequency of attacks? What common organic affection is co-existent with gout? Is the kidney, liver, or heart implicated, as a general rule? Are the functions of the above relieved by a sharp attack, and rendered free from abnormal disturbance?—Your obedient servant,

MEDICO-CHIRURGICUS.

A MEMBER.—Fellows and members of the College of Surgeons cannot be admitted to the *conversazione* unless members of the International Medical Congress.

THE ODOUR OF IODOFORM.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent, inquiring, in a recent number of the JOURNAL, in what way he could disguise the characteristic odour of iodoform, I would tell him—failing any other reply to his query—that, in one of your contemporaries, it was lately stated that it had been accidentally discovered that a drop of tincture of musk would cover the smell of an ounce of iodoform.—I am, etc.,

MOSCHUS.

WHAT TO AVOID.

A CORRESPONDENT forwards the following advertisement, cut from the *Sunderland Echo*, in which he states that he has twice observed it. It ought not, he naturally thinks, to escape equal publicity in a professional journal. "Dr. Dennis Turnbull, 1, Woodside, Belvedere Road, Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland, late of 16, Cambrey, Cheltenham, where he practised upwards of twenty-seven years most successfully, has felt essentially necessary to relinquish that locality, because of its relaxing tendency, for his own native county, whence he hopes to derive the superlative advantages of a more bracing atmosphere. And, practising as a general family physician, he sincerely trusts, by assiduity in his profession, to obtain the patronage of the nobility, clergy, gentry, tradespeople, and the public generally of Sunderland and its populous vicinity."

1. The statement that A. does not recognise B. because he is only a "singly qualified" medical practitioner, is senseless, and has no meaning or value. 2. Of course, a practitioner who is registered is entitled to describe himself so, whether he be registered in virtue of one qualification or a dozen.

RETURN OF LOST SENSE OF SMELL.

SIR,—A. J.'s interesting account of himself, on the above subject, prompts me to send you my case. About four years since, I entirely lost my sense of smell, suddenly, without any accident that I can remember; when, in coming out of a patient's door, I slipped my foot, and fell heavily to the ground. On getting into my carriage, I found I was suffering from severe headache, and applied eau-de-Cologne to the top of my head; when, to my joy and surprise, I found my sense of smell had suddenly returned. I had no double vision, neither did I lose my taste.—Yours faithfully,

BLACKALL MARSACK.

FAMA PER URBN.

SIR,—The item you quote about some trumpery operation, from the *Limerick Reporter*, appeared without the knowledge of any of the individuals whose names were mentioned. Apologising for taking up room in your paper about so small a matter, I remain, your obedient servant,

G. DELAUNDRÉ.

THE MEDICAL REGISTER.

SIR,—Finding, quite by accident that my name had been omitted from the *Medical Register*, I went directly to the Registrar for explanation, and was informed that it was now the rule to strike off the names of all who did not reply to their circular, whether the address had been changed or not. Feeling that others might be ignorant of this (to my mind) summary regulation, makes me think it of sufficient importance to trouble you with this communication.—I am, yours truly,

J. WICKHAM BARNES.

3, Bolt Court, Fleet Street, July 13th, 1881.

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

Mr. Ernest Morgan, London; Dr. Gerald Harper, London; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. G. Brown, London; Dr. Edwin Rickards, Birmingham; Dr. John Currie, Lydney; Mr. V. Jackson, Wolverhampton; Dr. Creswell Baber, Brighton; Mr. R. Jeffreys, Chesterfield; Dr. W. Williams, Liverpool; Mr. T. Bond, London; A Member; Mr. Henry Eales, Birmingham; M.D.; Dr. W. R. Marchant, Clifton; Dr. Karl Grossman, Liverpool; A Mem. B. M. A.; Glasgow Correspondent; Practitioner; Mr. J. A. Erskine Stuart, Heckmondwike; Mr. Albert Wilson, London; Mr. J. Ireland Bowes, Northampton; Mr. F. A. Macewen, Edinburgh; Dr. Lucas, Bombay; Mr. W. Berry, Wigan; Mr. M. B. Laurence, London; Dr. W. Barrett Roué, Bristol; Mr. T. Small, Boston; Dr. J. P. H. Boileat, Woolston; Dr. J. Murray, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. J. H. Bell, Bradford; Dr. Withers Moore, Brighton; Mr. T. D. Cook, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. G. Bartholomew, New York; Mr. John Lowe, Lichfield; Mr. Carter, Cambridge; Dr. C. C. Cocks, Ross; etc.

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Seven lines and under	60	3	6
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Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association, at the West Central Post-Office, High Holborn. Small amount may be sent in postage stamps.