

**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.

#### BACILLI IN TYPHOID FEVER EPIDEMICS.

SIR,—*Alphos* of the paper that appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, July 16th, 1881, describing how Dr. Brantlecht of Brunswick, in reference to his finding bacilli in the water used by the people in a district infected with typhoid fever, and also by him producing typhoid fever by injecting bacilli, reminds me and induces me to think that my opinion of the origin of typhoid in a village in the district where I was practising about sixteen years ago, was a right one. First, the fever was so common in the village that I was told when I commenced practice in the district that they were scarcely ever free, and instead of it being called typhoid, gastric, or any of the ordinary terms, it was known by the name of the "village". There was another village within a mile, where no cases were found. I came to the conclusion that it must have its origin locally, in either the water they used, or the miasma from a large tarn and several small pools, which in the wet season were much increased in size; therefore, in dry seasons, leaving very muddy banks covered with half-decayed vegetable matter. I pressed my opinion so strongly about the water supply and the small swamps about the village being the cause, that, after some years, the common land about the village was drained, and pumps put down into wells sunk into the solid rock; and I can, I think, safely say that, for the last four or five years, there has hardly been a case of typhoid. Perhaps, as I am on the subject, it will interest some of your readers to state what my treatment was, and with what success. I gave strict orders they were to have nothing but milk and farinaceous food; all animal food, even down to weak broth or beef-tea, was strictly forbidden; and the only two cases out of a great number for some years' experience that died, I blamed the attendants for giving them, just as they were recovering, some veal broth; the fever returned, and being weak in constitution they died. Medicines given: quinine and nitro-muriatic acid. If diarrhoea or hæmorrhage set in, sulphuric acid and opium, with ether. Strict orders as to cleanliness, and immediate removal of all excreta. What made me more inclined to be convinced it was the water, was the villages adjoining were mixing daily at the various works, yet there was no typhoid amongst them, but they had good water-supply.—I am, etc.,

ROBERT HARRISON, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A.Lond., M.B.M.A.S.

#### MATÉ.

MR. ERNEST GELDART, of Little Braxted Rectory, Witham, in a letter to the *Daily News*, writes as follows concerning maté. "For some two or three years, I have been a 'maté drinker'; and considering the easy communication and frequent intercourse between England and the Argentine Republic, it has been a source of wonder to me that the drink of Paraguay has not long ago been popularised in this country. In the Paris Exhibition of 1878, the 'yerba', as it is called, was sold; but, judging from an extremely musty and stale specimen which I saw in a friend's hands, was perhaps not calculated to inspire confidence. The tea (or herb, rather) will keep in perfectly good condition for a long time, if preserved in the cow-skin bag in which it is sold; in fact, I have some by me now three years old. The chief difficulty is to make the tea. Although this is done by 'simply pouring boiling water', yet this requires to be done very deftly, or else the pipe through which the drink is sucked becomes clogged with dust and twigs, and the cup which does 'not inebriate' fails also to 'cheer'. The process of making, to be successful, is thus performed: Having procured your 'maté', which is the small gourd from which the tea is drank, put into it two or three spoonfuls of the 'yerba', or tea, and then, closing the top of the maté with the hand, turn it upside down, and shake it well. The object of this proceeding is to bring the dust to the top and the twigs to the bottom (when the cup is returned to its normal position). Having shaken it thus, turn the gourd slowly round till the 'yerba' has fallen back just enough to enable you to remove your hand from the orifice without spilling the contents. Then take the 'bombilla', a silver tube with a pierced bulb at the end, and slip the same carefully under the 'yerba', and turn the 'maté' upright, being very careful not to shake the contents. Then 'pour the boiling water', adding sugar if desired, and the drink is ready when it has stood (say, one minute). Each 'charge' will bear watering perhaps three times, after which it should be cleaned out. I fear that some Europeans will be inclined to object to the process of drinking, which is as follows: The servant, either black or white, always has first suck (in order to clear the tube of dust), the 'maté' is then handed to the party one by one, and all draw in the liquid through the same pipe. But use accustoms one to anything; and I have drunk contentedly from the steaming cup in very mixed and somewhat questionable company ere now, upon the prairie, and should be quite ready to 'repeat the dose'. The drink has one great advantage—it is cheap. If my memory fails me not, it is about one shilling a pound. The maté and bombilla cost, say, ten shillings. I believe, moreover, that it has great 'staying powers'. The Gauchos in South America say that if you want to ride 'long and strong', take a piece of bread and a 'maté'. A Chileno I once met on board-ship said that he went through the famine of the Commune in Paris on 'maté'."

#### FALSE CONCEPTION.

MR. ADDISON, in the House of Commons, three times attempted to make a speech upon an important question, and each time began as follows: "Mr. Speaker, I conceive", and then stopped. When this occurred for the third time, a witty member arose and said: "I regret exceedingly that my friend has conceived three times, and yet has brought forth nothing. It is a manifest case of false conception."

#### ABDOMINAL ABSCESS AS A RESULT OF ENTERIC FEVER.

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of July 23rd, I see two cases of "Abdominal Abscess following Enteric Fever" by Dr. Bruce Low. This sequel of enteric fever is, I believe, as stated by him, not a very common one. It may, therefore, be not without interest if you would kindly insert the following similar case, occurring about two years ago, in my own practice.

The patient, a girl twenty years of age, suffered from a well marked attack of typhoid fever, attended with a plentiful crop of rose-coloured spots and very great tenderness in the hypogastrium. About the third week of the fever, a lump was noticed to the left of the umbilicus, which rapidly increased in size, and ultimately gave well marked fluctuation. I accordingly opened it, and gave vent to a very large quantity of the same horribly faeculent pus as Dr. Low alludes to in his case No. 1. The sinus did not thoroughly heal for a month. I may add, my patient was thoroughly free from any scrofulous taint, in fact, a very healthy young woman. Since her illness, she has married, and given birth to one child, the labour being in every way natural.—Your obedient servant,

Newport Pagnell, July 30th, 1881.

CHARLES TERRY.

#### FISSURED TONGUE.

SIR,—Can any of your readers assist me in the treatment of the following case? A lady in the middle period of life, of a highly sensitive and nervous temperament, has for some months past been suffering from a cracked and fissured tongue, with enlarged and irritable-looking papillæ, especially at the tip, the whole organ being covered with a thick creamy fur, which dries up at night-time. The mucous membrane of the hard palate and gums is extremely vascular and sensitive, and continually shedding quantities of epithelium; and she is unable to bear the contact of the tongue with it. There is no specific history, and the salivary apparatus appears to be normal; no calculi or other hindrance to insalivation. The whole of the teeth have been extracted, and several artificial contrivances fitted, but she is unable to bear the slightest pressure; besides consulting dentists, she has seen several able medical men, who have exhausted themselves with treatment, both dietetic and therapeutic, directed generally and locally to stomach, mucous membrane, and nervous system. As the case has come under my care, I should be glad of a few hints as to the management of it, if any of your subscribers will favour me.—Yours faithfully,

ALLEN FENNINGS.

81, Clarendon Road, Notting Hill, W.

WARNEFORD should read the words of the various diplomas to which he refers; he will then see that in several instances the rules which he lays down are incompatible with the wording of the diploma.

#### MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN MAURITIUS.

SIR,—Allow me to state that medical men practising in Mauritius are not only all qualified, but highly so, all but a few having either the M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., or M.R.C.P., of London; the M.D. of Edinburgh; or the M.D. of Paris. In the whole colony, there is only one M.D. of Dublin, and no men practising without at the very least the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. There is no fee for registration, however; every medical man arriving in Mauritius to practise is compelled to produce his diplomas, and a list is published of their names and qualifications, which list you can get on application to M. Shoumeau, Pharmacien, La Chaussée, Port-Louis, Mauritius, by which my statements could be proved.

I think that, should any of your correspondents wish to speak of Mauritius, I should advise them to ascertain facts before publishing at random false statements.—I am, sir, yours truly,

A. B. JOLLIVET.

University College Hospital, Gower Street, London, July 30th, 1881.

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

Mr. T. Churton, Leeds; Mr. J. Jones, Leeds; Dr. Stirling, Aberdeen; Dr. T. J. Walker, Peterborough; Mr. H. Platt, Scarborough; Mr. J. W. Ashworth, Manchester; Mr. Charles Higgins, London; Mr. T. W. Locke, Chester; Dr. F. Beach, Hull; Mr. E. M. Cooke, Worcester; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Dr. Thim, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. F. W. Loundes, Liverpool; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Dr. Gowers, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Mar H. Judge, London; Mr. T. Clarke, Pewsey; Mr. E. Leeds, Ramsgate; Mr. E. L. Freer, Birmingham; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. A. Duncan, London; An Undergraduate; Mr. Ralph Stone, Omagh; An M.B. of Glasgow University; Mr. A. H. Haggard, London; Mr. J. M. Scott, Canterbury; Dr. James Neal, Sandown; Country Member; Mr. J. Howell, London; Mr. T. Whitehead Reid, Canterbury; Dr. H. J. Benham, Ipswich; Mr. G. Barrow, Windsor; Dr. J. S. Bristowe, London; Dr. F. P. Atkinson, Kingston-on-Thames; Mr. T. Taylor, Bolton; Mr. James Eaton, Grantham; Dr. P. M. Braidwood, Liverpool; Mr. Walter Smith, London; Dr. Murrell, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. John C. Maynard, Bishop Auckland; etc.

#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Rheumatism; its Nature, its Pathology, and its Successful Treatment. By T. J. MacLagan, M.D. London: Pickering and Co. 1881.  
A Treatise on Comparative Embryology. By F. M. Balfour, LL.D., F.R.S. In two volumes. Vol. II. London: Macmillan and Co. 1881.  
Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital Reports. By J. Tweedy, F.R.C.S. Part II., June, 1881. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1881.  
Selections from the Works of Abraham Colles. By R. McDonnell, M.D., F.R.S. London: New Sydenham Society. 1881.  
A Treatise on Therapeutics. By A. Trousseau. Ninth Edition. Vols. I, II, and III. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1881.  
Diseases of the Nervous System. By M. Rosenthal. With a Preface by Professor Charcot. Vols. I and II. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1881.  
A Treatise on Foreign Bodies. By A. Poulet, M.D. Vols. I and II. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1881.  
Diagnosis and Treatment of Ear-Disease. By A. H. Buck, M.D. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1881.

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